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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, October 23, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC



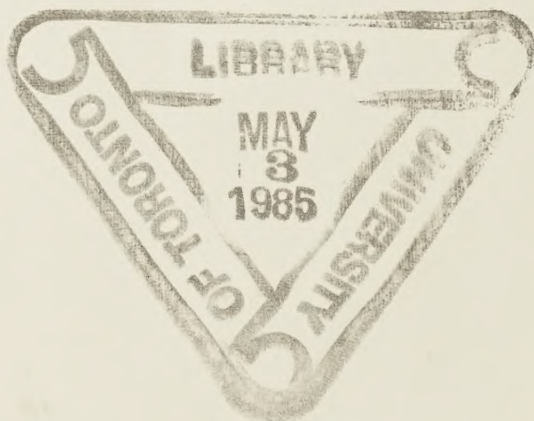
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 23, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the business of the House, I ask all members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in recognizing in the Speaker's gallery members of the delegation of presidents of regional councils of France.

COMMERCIAL FISHING QUOTAS

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege in regard to a press release issued on October 19, 1984, about commercial fishing quotas. I believe the responsibility for this press release lies with the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) and legal counsel from the Ministry of the Attorney General.

Mr. Justice Smith of the Supreme Court of Ontario, in a judgement released on October 15, 1984, declared certain federal and provincial fishery regulations to be unconstitutional and of no force and effect. The imposition of individual commercial fishing quotas by the provincial Minister of Natural Resources last April was thus declared invalid and unlawful.

On Friday, October 19, 1984, the ministry moved for a stay of this decision pending its appeal to the Ontario Court of Appeal. This appeal will likely be heard in January or February. The application for a stay was dismissed by Mr. Justice Houlden in chambers and costs were awarded to the respondents, Mr. Peralta and Mr. Moody.

Put simply, Mr. Justice Houlden would not interfere with Mr. Justice Smith's decision and suggested that, if so inclined, the ministry could appeal. Counsel for the ministry then asked Mr. Justice Houlden whether the ministry could lay charges against the fishermen who exceeded the quotas in the interim. Mr. Justice Houlden replied that the ministry "may attempt to lay charges" and that "the fishermen will simply have to take their chances."

The latter was a reference to the possibility that a finding of constitutional validity by the Ontario Court of Appeal, if upheld by the Supreme Court of Canada, could result in the eventual prosecution of those fishermen for exceeding quotas and,

thus, the eventual enforcement of the various charges that might be laid pursuant to the now declared invalid regulations.

It is the view of the legal counsel for the fishermen that a good defence for these charges could be made but that they would have ultimately to be placed before the courts.

This conversation with Mr. Justice Houlden was very much a conversation and was in no way part of any official statement or decree by the justice.

Now we get to the point of the press release that was circulated by the minister. Unfortunately, in the late afternoon of Friday, October 19, the minister issued a press release that fundamentally misrepresented both the content and the context of the decision made by Mr. Justice Houlden earlier that morning. Indeed, the confusion was such that three separate news reporters telephoned individual fishermen on Friday afternoon, following the receipt of this press release, to advise them that a stay had been granted and that a Court of Appeal justice had ordered the fishermen to comply with the ministry's fishing quotas.

Two particular misrepresentations in this press release gave rise to this confusion. First, it was the suggestion that Mr. Justice Houlden—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, sir.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully and I have failed to see where the member's privileges have been offended in any way. The fishermen's privileges may have been, but yours as a member certainly have not been.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, may I take 10 seconds to respond to that particular point?

Mr. Speaker: I shall listen for 10 seconds.

Mr. Mancini: Like everyone else, I was confused by the minister's statement. The way the statement was prepared led everyone to believe a stay had been granted.

Two particular misrepresentations in this press release gave rise to this confusion. First, there was the suggestion that Mr. Justice Houlden found that "a stay was not necessary." In fact, the judge held that "a stay was not available."

Second, there was a suggestion that Mr. Justice Houlden had somehow decreed that the ministry had the right to enforce the individual commercial fishing quotas. In fact, the most that was said was that the ministry could attempt to lay charges.

These are not merely distinctions without a difference. The language used by the minister to misdescribe what transpired in Mr. Justice Houlden's chambers created the impression that Mr. Justice Smith's decision, holding the commercial fishing quotas unconstitutional, was of no real force or significance.

Indeed, this was the very impression created in the minds of the news media, of myself and of my colleagues in the Legislature. Whether the minister has, purposely or not, we need a clarification today—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Again, I have failed to see where your privileges as a member have been offended. I find you completely out of order. I would suggest that you address that question to the minister at the appropriate time.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I cannot—

Mr. Speaker: Order. No, no.

Mr. Renwick: On the question, Mr Speaker, I would refer you in this instance to the statement by the minister on Thursday, October 18, in this assembly at pages 3204 and 3205 of Hansard. It would appear to me that a consideration of that, together with the comments made by my colleague the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), would indicate there is at least a requirement on the minister on the question of privilege to make a statement in the House to clarify what he said on Thursday and what he said in his press release on Friday. My privileges are affected by that, sir.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much. I appreciate your drawing that to my attention, although the member for Essex South did not, in fact, refer to the previous statement made by the minister.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, my apologies for that, but I did refer to the press release of Friday. All of us are aware that the minister has—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mancini: —got himself into a pile of trouble over these quotas. I think it is only fair for him to clarify whether or not—

Mr. Speaker: The honourable member will please resume his seat. You can ask that during question period.

VISITEURS

M. Villeneuve: M. l'Orateur, je désire souhaiter la bienvenue aux membres de la délégation française des présidents des conseils régionaux de la France, qui sont avec nous cet après-midi.

J'espère que leur séjour parmi nous sera fructueux, et tout particulièrement leur participation ici à Queen's Park. Je les assure que la province de l'Ontario a progressé énormément à fournir des services, dans la mesure du possible, à nos Ontariens d'expression française.

Chers délégués, soyez rassurés que la langue française en Ontario continue à s'épanouir avec l'encouragement du gouvernement de la province.

Encore une fois, bienvenue à vous en Ontario. Passez un bon séjour parmi nous.

M. Samis: M. l'Orateur, au nom du Nouveau Parti démocratique, j'aimerais souhaiter un accueil très chaleureux à nos visiteurs. Dans l'opposition nous sommes très heureux de voir des Français parmi nous. J'aimerais les assurer que dans l'opposition nous continuons la lutte pour avoir la langue française reconnue comme une langue officielle de cette province.

M. Peterson: M. l'Orateur, au nom du Parti libéral de l'Ontario, je voudrais moi aussi leur souhaiter la bienvenue en Ontario. Ils ont ici une bonne occasion de regarder le Parti libéral en action.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, for lack of a more appropriate term, I rise on a point of order. As you know, the people in this building, including some of your staff, have been working very diligently to hold another function for the purpose of raising money for the United Way. They have planned a Legislative Frolic and auction for Thursday, October 25, at noon hour.

Mr. Nixon: Another frolic?

Mr. Riddell: It is a little different program this year in that they are going to have some excellent entertainment, including some professional people who are offering their services. There will be other entertainment as well. I have to mention my good friend the member for York South (Mr. Rae), who will be there to play the piano.

After the entertainment there will be an auction, and this is considered to be the highlight of the whole campaign. It is where the staff here hopes to raise most of its money. I will again have the pleasure of conducting the auction. I want to tell my colleagues that I make absolutely no personal gain from this auction, so I hope my

friends across the way will not stay away for that purpose.

I just want to mention that some of the items that will be going up for auction are a trip for two to Florida, a papal licence plate, a ballot box from the election office, a brick from the old Upper Canada building, a reproduction of the Pope and the Queen's signature, a pictorial history of Ontario, a book called *Loyal She Remains*, and many other excellent items.

In the past, many of the members have not shown up at this particular function. With the amount of work these people have to do to hold this function for a very worthwhile cause, I would think it is rather important that members of this Legislature show up. They should give the people who have planned this their co-operation. We encourage each and every one to come out and to be very liberal in his bidding.

Mr. Speaker: I might point out that we not only need their co-operation but we need their money.

NOMINATION MEETING

Mr. Bradley: On a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker: Perhaps you can help me out with this because it requires some clarification.

This is in regard to an article that appeared in the *Oshawa Times*. I am wondering whether you would be able to help out on whether this person should be at nomination meetings. The article says, "Guest speaker at the nomination meeting will be Lou Parsons, chairman of GO Transit." I think this was for the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe).

I am wondering whether this is appropriate. I think this person is also looking after the campaign of the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller). Is this in contravention of the Manual of Administration?

Mr. Speaker: If I may have your undivided attention, I am sure it is probably not a matter of privilege. Perhaps the question should better be directed to the appropriate minister at the appropriate time.

Mr. Bradley: I do not know whether that is a political decision or not.

Mr. Speaker: Neither do I.

ORAL QUESTIONS

TELEPHONE RATES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications about the hearings of the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Com-

mission currently under way with respect to the application of CNCP Telecommunications to compete with Bell Canada on long-distance lines.

I know the minister is aware of the issues at stake. He is also aware that if this goes through, Bell Canada will be refiled for so-called rebalancing of the bills of the average consumer in Ontario. He knows this could result in rate increases of some 200 per cent to 400 per cent for the average telephone consumer.

Will the minister stand in this House and send his representatives to those hearings and stand firmly against any system that would subsidize long-distance rates for either system at the expense of the ordinary telephone consumer in Ontario. Will he put his considerable weight behind this position?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, we will certainly be represented at the hearings. I do not wish to give any credence to the suggestion the honourable member has made in his percentage figures. I really have no idea whether they are anywhere close to being correct; I do doubt that.

Naturally, I would be concerned about any subsidization of long-distance rates by local telephone service charges, although I really do not think that is an issue at this time. The issue is whether there should be competition by another company that would be allowed to have long-distance voice service across this country. If that were to happen, there would be competition on the long-distance rates and it would lessen the amount of cross-subsidy between long-distance and local rates.

This is all the matter of a very lengthy and complicated hearing which is going on at the CRTC. My people are there and will be there for the balance of that hearing.

Mr. Peterson: Very clearly, the minister is not correct in his assessment of these issues. This has ramifications for the ordinary consumer of telephone service in Ontario. Very clearly, that is the case.

I shall bring the minister up to date on this.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Bell Canada's own figures say 85 per cent of the subscribers will pay higher costs than they would without the so-called rebalancing. This is what Bell will be filing for. It also says that probably 250,000 telephone users will lose access and have to give up their service because they will not be able to afford it. Those

are their figures, not my figures, in their own application.

Given Bell's estimates, which presumably are reasonably accurate—or why would they give them when they are not self-serving in any way?—I am asking the minister to stand up with his colleagues on behalf of the telephone consumers in this province and say he will stand four-square against that position. It is a simple one. He knows it is going to happen if action is not taken. I am asking him strongly to take that position.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I do not accept the fact that everything is going to happen as the member says. I would like to point out that he quoted a completely different set of figures in his supplementary from those he quoted in his original question. It is the figures in his original question that I doubt very much.

I also object to him trying to say that I said it would not affect local telephone subscribers. Of course it will affect local telephone subscribers if there is a balancing of charges between long-distance and local service. That is the subject of the whole hearing, and we will be there representing the interests of the people of Ontario at that hearing.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, if the minister has followed the hearings over previous years, he will know that the figures given by Bell have been grossly incorrect and that their net income has far exceeded what was projected.

I simply want to ask the minister whether he will ensure that any cross-subsidization or cross-payments will be enough to ensure that the telephone users in this province, particularly the residential users, will not have their rates increased because of any competition from CNCP which in the long run may be good for the whole telephone system.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am at somewhat of a loss here. I do not know how the honourable member can expect me to guarantee him what a CRTC decision will be. If that is what he is asking me, I cannot guarantee him that.

Mr. Peterson: We are not asking that. We are asking the minister to get off the fence and take a strong position in favour of the consumers in Ontario. That is what we are asking him. We are not asking him to guarantee the CRTC decision.

Interjection.

Mr. Peterson: We are not. We are asking him to take a strong position on this matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member place his question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I am placing my question. I want to tell the minister again that the figures I have given him are not incorrect; they are according to Bell's filing. Surely he can understand the potential ramifications if 250,000 subscribers have to lose their phones, if rates go up by between 200 and 400 per cent or if, as they say, some 85 per cent of the subscribers' phone bills go up. Surely he can understand the impact of that on people in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Given that the minister does not have to make the decision but does have such considerable weight, why would he not instruct his counsel at that CRTC hearing to take a position clearly on the side of the consumers in Ontario? I am asking him to get off the fence.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, you and, I am sure, most others know I am not one to be on any fences. I think I proved that this morning.

As to the member's questions, I assure him we are not on any fence in Ottawa. I assure him my people are there solely for one purpose, and that is to protect the consumers of Ontario. At this moment I do not think the member knows, nor do I know, that any one part of that application can be designated as the only part that will protect the consumers of Ontario. We have to wait until we have heard all the information that will be brought forward at that hearing. We will be there and we will make our presentation.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister on the long-distance user's side or on the consumer's side? That is the question. He still has not taken a position.

TRUST COMPANIES

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). The Solicitor General will recall that on Friday, April 27, 1984, I asked him a question in this House about the affidavit filed by Ben Axelrod that made some very damning allegations. That affidavit under oath in the Supreme Court of Ontario concerned a \$500,000 fee he had paid, part of which was to buy influence with the Conservative government. The Solicitor General said then he would look into the matter. I would like to know now the results of his investigation.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, because he has asked similar questions of the Attorney General and me, it is a document that is part of an ongoing

investigation in Ontario. I have not read the document because it is part of the investigation.

Just because it is an affidavit does not mean there is any truth in the material. If the member were to take affidavits from some of his people, there would be information and beliefs in them. If he practised law, I am sure he would remember some of the information and belief documents. There might be some of his people who would support him on information and belief, and I am sure there are some who might not.

I would not like to allege there is any accuracy in the comments in that affidavit. Since it is part of an ongoing investigation, I cannot comment further to this House except to say it might not contain any legitimate factual information whatever.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister prepared on a whim to dismiss a sworn document? It brings forth the question of what he is trying to hide. Why would he not at least investigate this document brought to his attention six months ago? Now he is saying he has not read it. It is bloody irresponsible of him. I asked the Attorney General on Friday and he was not aware of it. I asked the Solicitor General to discuss it with him and he did not.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: How seriously does he take these allegations? Does he let them roll off his back? Does he have no conscience? Anyone who took the judicial process in Ontario seriously would immediately investigate those allegations, which suggest that \$500,000 or some part thereof went to purchase influence with the Conservative government. Surely the Solicitor General has not lost so much shame that he would not take it seriously and get to the bottom of it. That is his responsibility as the Solicitor General of Ontario. Why is he not fulfilling his responsibilities?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: The honourable gentleman undoubtedly does not understand the system. The investigation is ongoing; the material is ongoing in the investigation. The member puts forward information, as he does continually. I remember a letter he put forward last year about somebody making payments, an innocuous letter. When we delved into it, it was nothing.

It is under investigation. The material is there. The police are investigating it. Surely the member does not believe a minister goes through each item in an investigation. I cannot believe he would want a political or legal system whereby the Solicitor General would look at each piece of information and evidence in a process or investigation to make a decision on it. He would

be standing in his place yelling and screaming "political interference." I am sure there is nothing to the material, but it is under investigation.

Mr. Peterson: How can the minister make such an outrageous statement? How can he stand there saying he is sure there is nothing in it? How the hell does he know there is nothing in it without investigating it?

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: That is absolutely outrageous. He has prejudged the situation. For some reason he does not want this to get out. I am asking for an independent look at this very serious allegation. He is now saying, without investigating it, knowing nothing about it, that he knows there is nothing of substance in the document. That is the most irresponsible position the Solicitor General could take.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: He has an obligation to bring in an independent look at this question. That is what I am asking him for.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: On the content the member has put forward, there is nothing that would warrant an independent investigation on the point he has raised. It is part of a document in a very large ongoing investigation taking place at present. There is nothing in what he has said in this House or elsewhere that would urge me to bring about an independent investigation on that piece of information.

2:30 p.m.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Premier. I want to ask him whether he supports the provisions of the existing Ontario Election Finances Reform Act that require disclosure of contributions to political candidates and political parties and provide for a limit on those contributions.

If he supports that legislation and believes the public has the right to know who contributes, and how much, to local candidates, does he not agree as deputy leader of this province and as a senior person in his party that there should be limitations on the expenditures and full disclosure of the contributions for those seeking the premiership of this province, a process that will take place on January 24 to 26?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I am here to account for matters of legislation. There is no question that the legislation on the books is supported and is part of the law of the province.

The other question the honourable member raised is an internal matter of the party to which I belong, and I do not know that I should be called upon to answer a speculative question in relation to our party.

Mr. Swart: The minister cannot bypass the question that easily. Surely he recognizes that massive public funds in the form of tax credits are going to be paid from the Ontario public purse towards this leadership convention in a variety of ways through riding associations. Does he not also think that by any logical reasoning there is a public interest here, when the leader selected is going to be the Premier of this province, perhaps only temporarily?

The leadership candidates alone are going to spend millions in total, according to reports in the newspapers. Recognizing that money plays a real part in the selection process, does the minister not think the public ought to have the right to know whether vested interests are supporting certain leadership candidates, be they private nursing homes, developers, aggregate producers or whoever?

Hon. Mr. Welch: May we quietly trace the steps? Whoever is the successful candidate in the leadership convention being staged by this party becomes the Premier of Ontario. During the preparations that will follow, that individual will no doubt lead this party through another successful election campaign, whenever it may come.

In the preparations for that election campaign, in keeping with the letter and the spirit of the law, there is a clear responsibility with respect to full disclosure for those who make contributions for that consultation.

The member's party has had a leadership convention, and other parties have had leadership conventions. I take it as a matter of record that those campaigns have been conducted according to the law as set down, as far as disclosure is concerned.

The member was very careful in his supplementary question not to remind people that we draw a very distinct line between the contributions that are going to be made to an individual who will seek this leadership, for which no public receipt is issued, and the contributions that are made to a constituency organization from the standpoint of general purposes. There is a nice distinction, and no doubt the member would want me to make it for him just to keep his supplementary question clean and above board.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, it is that very distinction that the public is concerned about. Is the minister not aware that some of the candi-

dates, one of them announced and several soon to be announced, have many thousands of dollars in their constituency funds, each supported to the extent of 75 per cent with taxpayers' dollars, which may be transferred to the leadership campaigns where there is no limit and no accounting?

Even some cabinet ministers who are not themselves going to be candidates, some of whom stand firmly on the side of the one candidate who has already announced, have at their disposal many thousands of dollars that they can direct towards the campaigns where there is no limit and no accounting, even though in the spirit of the 1975 statute this was designed strictly for accountable election expenses at the constituency level.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member would want to be fair. It becomes a matter of fact as to the purposes for which a contribution is made. He knows very well that a contribution made to an individual for the purposes of this campaign is not eligible for a receipt for tax purposes.

Mr. Nixon: It has already been receipted.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It becomes a matter of fact as to whether I or anyone else has made a contribution to any constituency organization for the general purposes of the organization or for the personal campaign of any particular person. That becomes a matter of fact. The member does the whole system an injustice by imputing that type of motivation with respect to gifts that are made for the general purposes of the constituency organizations.

Mr. Swart: Surely the minister knows that the distinction between these kinds of contributions and those given to political parties under the present act is secrecy. That is what we think should not be there.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: Does the minister know it is public knowledge that the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) received \$12,425 from the nursing home industry in the year after his election?

Why does the minister not have enough faith in the electorate of this province to let it decide whether massive donations influence members? Why would he not want disclosure?

Hon. Mr. Welch: That is a very interesting way to put a question.

There is no doubt in anyone's mind with respect to the present law. I happen to be one of a majority in this province, I hope, who do not

think the public of Ontario can be fooled with respect to expenditures of money. As far as I am concerned, since August 1943 the people of this province have exercised pretty responsible judgement. That is what they really wanted and that is democracy.

CUPE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister not concerned about the trend and nature of collective bargaining in the public sector dispute, the current strike between 400 members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Locals 1582, 1806 and 2758, which is not over wages but over takebacks and cutbacks of workers' rights?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about any dispute in this province of a management-labour nature. Certainly, I am concerned about the matter the honourable member has brought forward.

Mr. Mackenzie: Has the minister looked into the changing management structure and strategy since 1981 which has resulted in grievances not being settled but forced to arbitration and which culminated in management responding at the end of April, four months after the expiry of the contract, with a rewritten contract that involved literally dozens of takebacks? Does the minister support this kind of assault on workers?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am not aware of all the facts the member has brought forward. I am aware of some of them.

I am in a bit of a quandary here because, since being Minister of Labour, it has been my policy when asked a question of that nature to respond in a manner in which I would not cast judgement on the bargaining that is going on. I do not believe it is my position to cast judgement on the position of management or of labour; it would be irresponsible to do so. I have expressed concern about the circumstances, and I acknowledged that a few moments ago, but to go any further than to express concern would be inappropriate.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Mackenzie: Does the minister understand that there is a clear negation of basic individual seniority rights, new exclusions from the bargaining unit as well as reductions in the numbers of stewards, the negotiating committee and the grievance committee? The list goes on and on. The minister should bring himself up to date. Does the minister understand that means the leadership in this local now can be targeted

and removed? Rights and protections the workers have won, including protection for workers from changes resulting from new technology, are destroyed.

Will the minister not intervene quickly to prevent the fundamental destruction of workers' rights and security that is happening to these workers? Will he not act to demonstrate that this government is not turning a blind eye to a policy that seems to say open season on workers and their rights in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I was with the honourable member until that last sentence; then I am afraid I lost him, because I totally disagree with his last remarks.

The unions in question, the locals in question and the individuals in question do have recourse; they have recourse to the Ontario Labour Relations Board, and I would suggest that this is the appropriate forum in which to address these matters.

I will commit myself, however, because I know the member is quite sincere in the matters he has brought forward, to looking into the matter personally.

STAFFING OF REST HOMES

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health following upon my question to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) yesterday regarding the beating of a Vietnamese woman at the University Rest Home in Windsor. I am sure the minister will remember that the individual who was victimized in this attack was one of only two staff members on duty at the time in a home with more than 100 patients.

The minister will be aware that, as a result of the classification of residential care that now exists in Ontario, it is possible to have several types of residents with extremely broad characteristics, ranging from physical disability and psychological disturbances to the problems of ageing, in the same rest home. All have different needs, and yet no provincial legislation exists to ensure the staffing and program requirements to meet these various needs.

How long do the minister and the government plan to allow a situation to exist in Ontario that continues to place both the staff and the patients in these rest homes at risk?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I must confess I am not familiar with the specific situation the honourable member refers to, but I am sure that at this point he is well aware of the fact that the appropriate authority to deal with the regulation of rest homes is at the municipal level

and that, in so far as the health aspect of such a residence or accommodation is involved, the local medical officer of health has all the authority that is required to ensure healthy conditions within the premises.

Mr. Wrye: I am well aware of that fact, and that is the problem. Is it not true that the Rest Home Association of Ontario has asked the government to become involved in the regulation of rest homes? In fact, in its May newsletter, its president states:

"The type of residents admitted to our facilities has changed a great deal and their needs have increased. Government is trying to ignore this fact. We have to convince the government that a standard rate must be established to provide continuity of standards across the province for our residents."

When will this minister, as one of the ministers in this social policy area concerned with a system that results in individuals with special needs seeking care in rest homes, be convinced that he and the provincial level of government must begin to play a role?

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the members of the rest home association are saying there are persons being inappropriately admitted to rest homes, then they ought to cease that practice.

If the member is saying that a higher level of care is required, something that might be more appropriately provided in a nursing home, then that is an entirely different matter. If they are functioning illegally as nursing homes, then the member should raise the specific case and I will see that it is looked into.

Otherwise I would simply say that the rest home association and members of that association ought not to be inappropriately admitting residents for whom they cannot provide the required level of care.

I do not know whether the rest home association is requesting government regulation at the moment or not. I do know that in the past it has done so; but whenever it has requested that it has always been tied to a request for funding. I think one has to look very carefully at such requests so as to determine whether the request for regulation is in fact just a guise for—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, this is the rest home that I suggested to the minister in estimates last year was operating as an illegal nursing home.

I suggest that the minister talk to the people in the hospitals in Windsor, the medical officer of health or the placement co-ordination office, with Mrs. Prince. They will be glad to tell him, as

some of them told me last week, that all sorts of people in our city and across this province who should not be in rest homes because they need nursing home care, are nevertheless being released into rest homes from hospitals because there are no nursing home beds available. There are all sorts of inappropriate placements.

When is the minister going to get in touch with the reality of what is going on with these rest homes and understand that they have to be regulated? Most of them are operating as illegal nursing homes, in the meantime making all sorts of profits, while their residents are not protected by anyone because there are only half a dozen municipalities in this province that even have bylaws to provide any minimum level of protection for the residents in rest homes.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, my recollection is that when the honourable member raised this concern last year the investigation done at that time indicated that the levels of nursing care required by the residents of that particular home did not in fact reach the level of care required for nursing home care.

I think if I were a responsible resident of the community of Windsor, as this gentleman claims to be, and if I felt that my municipality was not acting responsibly in the regulation of such residential accommodation, I would talk to the municipality. I would not try to champion the cause by attacking my municipality on the floor of this Legislature; I would go and talk to my municipal representatives and urge them to get on with the job they ought to be doing.

Mr. J. A. Reed: You promised legislation years ago.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I did not.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Your predecessor did.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding the housing and rental crisis that exists in Windsor. The minister may or may not be aware that the vacancy rate in Windsor is now less than one per cent. There are 125 rental units available in Windsor. As a result of this lack of supply, market forces have squeezed thousands of people out of the rental market, and we are seeing massive rent increases for buildings that are post-1976 and therefore subject to no regulation by this government.

There have been rent increases such as these: the rent paid by Edith Drummond in Janisse Towers went from \$355 to \$425 a month, that at Lawson Towers went from \$425 to \$525, and

that at Lonsdale Towers went from \$525 a month to \$685, a \$160-a-month increase.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: Does the minister think those kinds of increased rents are justified, or is he going to bring in the kinds of amendments to the rent control laws in this province that are needed to protect tenants now, when they need protection, rather than waiting for three or four years, when the second phase of the Thom commission finally reports?

Is he prepared to act now to protect tenants, or is he going to continue to allow landlords to rip off the tenants of this province?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member well knows that rent control and rent review were brought into this province in 1975, were revised again in 1979 and have undergone some changes since then with respect to administrative policies and practices, more recently with the amendment in 1982. We have done nothing but demonstrate as a government our interest in continuing protection for tenants.

Mr. Laughren: Oh, nonsense.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Anyone who says this is not so had better go and try another hollow muscular organ, because when I have to leave here occasionally they do not understand that there is more than one. I know they think there is only one but let me say as a physician that there is more than one.

This government and this Legislature have always understood the principle that in order that there be the construction of rental accommodation in the private sector in this province it was deemed to be necessary—and there are studies to support this—that there be a portion of the market which is not regulated. The regulated or controlled market endeavours, as we see from place to place, to try to control those balances. In addition, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), through his responsibilities, looks at other options with respect to providing other accommodation.

Mr. Cooke: So that the minister understands what I said, I said there were only 125 rental units available for rent. Thousands of tenants are being squeezed out of the rental market. There are no new buildings going up in the city of Windsor, nothing in terms of nonprofit, co-ops or public housing because this government has opted out of the construction of housing in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: Instead of all the minister's platitudes about support for tenants and the protection of tenants, why does he not introduce legislation that forces landlords to justify rent increases in the post-1976 buildings? If they can justify a rent increase they will get it, but if the government does not do something thousands of people in Windsor are going to be out on the street or cutting into their food budgets to pay the rent.

Is it not time in this province, supposedly the richest province in Canada, that decent, affordable housing should be a right and people should not have to go begging to landlords or live in slum facilities because they cannot afford decent housing?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I think I speak on behalf of all my colleagues when I say we have had a long-standing commitment to rent control and rent review, and the public appreciates that. What we are talking about now involves several areas.

One is the private construction of rental accommodation. Whether or not it is there now, the low vacancy rate in the unregulated area will prompt that construction. Second, the member knows very well he should direct his question to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing with respect to other accommodation that might be made available.

In the area that comes under this ministry's regulation, we have a program that has reflected a continuing and legitimate concern for the tenants in this province, and they understand that.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on the minister's policy of protecting tenants in this province, if he is so concerned about helping tenants in this province, why would he not immediately lend his weight and assistance to his colleagues in the amendment to the demolition control bill that would save the homes of some 200 people at 790, 800 and 840 Eglinton Avenue West in the city of Toronto? Those people will be thrown out and those buildings will probably fall under the wrecker's ball without that amendment.

I presented that amendment to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), but the minister is the one concerned with protecting tenants. Why will he not immediately bring that amendment forward to protect those people?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, with respect, I do not think that is a supplementary question.

TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour with respect to the

Mississauga Transit strike that is causing considerable hardship for some 55,000 users. I know that a mediator is at work. Could he report on the status of those negotiations?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe it is quite accurate to say that a mediator is at work at the moment, because he is not. A senior mediator from our ministry met with the parties on October 17, 18 and 19, before the work stoppage.

When there is a work stoppage, it usually requires a day or two for the respective parties to assess their bargaining positions and objectives before resuming negotiations. In that light, there were no additional mediation efforts in the last two days. However, I am pleased to advise that mediation will resume tomorrow. I believe that to be a very positive step.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I am concerned to hear from the minister that in this dispute there is no mediator working at present. The member for Mississauga South has mentioned that some 55,000 people have had their transportation disrupted. That does not take into consideration the hardship the workers are facing. Why is the minister's department not there on the job to help resolve the strike?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I have to repeat what I said a moment ago. In many cases of work stoppages and stoppages that have occurred despite the best efforts of a mediator, the parties like to take a day or two to assess their positions before they get involved with the mediator again.

Let me make it abundantly clear that our mediator would have been available upon request from the minute the work stoppage began, but our mediator was not requested to intervene at that time. The parties wanted to assess their position. That is not unusual; it is more or less normal procedure. Mediation is to resume tomorrow. The parties are now prepared to come back to talk to each other and that, to me, is an encouraging sign.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, out of curiosity, I would like to ask the minister why he was so quick to legislate back the Toronto transit workers before they had even gone on strike and so slow to move in this case?

Mr. Speaker: I hardly think that is a supplementary, with all respect, but if the minister wants to answer it, he can go ahead.

The Minister of Health has the answer to a previously asked question.

Mr. Martel: That is a supplementary. What is wrong with that supplementary?

Mr. Speaker: It was not, as I said, in keeping with the original—

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, the minister was prepared to answer. Are you going to bail him out?

Mr. Speaker: I am not bailing anybody out.

Mr. Martel: You sure are.

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The member for Hamilton East did link the Toronto transit strike to the present situation and contrasted the minister's actions. That is a legitimate supplementary question. It may be that the minister is unable to answer it, but it is a legitimate question.

Mr. Speaker: I would point out to you that supplementary questions must be based on the previous answers.

Mr. Foulds: It was.

Mr. Speaker: No, with all respect, it was not.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, could you just listen to me for a second? The member asked why there was a contrast between the minister's action in this case and his action in a previous case. That seems to me to be a supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: That seems to me to be completely different from the original line of questioning.

The Minister of Health has a very brief answer to a previously asked question.

Mr. Martel: We ask you not to intervene. The minister was prepared to answer.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Kennedy: On a legitimate supplementary, could the minister give us a report on Thursday as to—

Mr. Speaker: No. That was the final supplementary. The Minister of Health has a very brief reply here.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I hope the timing of your calling my response was not to lull everyone into silence. I realize things were a little unruly there for a moment.

I do have a response to the recent question of the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) respecting the Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital and his concern about the suggestion of permanent closure of 41 beds and the request that

I authorize additional funding to ensure the operation of those beds.

I instructed the staff in the ministry as of yesterday, and I assume this has now been carried out, to contact the administrator of that hospital and to direct that the 41 acute care beds that were closed for the summer be reopened. In the early part of the summer, in June I believe, when the hospital submitted its budget, it proposed the permanent closure of not only 41, but an additional 14 beds. They were told they could not do that because there simply seemed to be no justification for it.

3 p.m.

According to the information I have, as of April of this year, their budget was showing a \$1.2-million surplus in operating funds, plus an additional working capital surplus of \$3.6 million. At the moment, on the assumption of the operation of all 41 beds, plus the 14 additional beds they propose to close, our projections are that they will finish this fiscal year with a surplus of \$1.4 million.

My conclusion is that no additional funding is necessary. For that reason, I have directed the reopening of those beds immediately.

Mr. Speaker: I might point out to all the members who are interested in holding up fingers that answer took less than two minutes.

RONDEAU PARK

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Natural Resources. I hate to tear the minister away when I know he is getting very good advice there.

Can the minister explain why, over the years, his government has treated the leaseholders in Rondeau Park in such a haphazard fashion in carrying out his policy of phasing out cottages from the park? Can he tell us how he is going to deal with 28 leaseholders whose leases come due in 1985 more fairly than he has in the past? As the minister knows, some leaseholders have been treated to a reasonable buyout of their cottages, while others have received nothing at all. How is he going to deal with these people fairly?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, as the member knows, in 1954 the government decided on a policy with respect to Rondeau Park and has been implementing this policy since that time.

The member probably also knows that in 1978 cabinet reviewed its original decision of 1954 and allowed the remaining leaseholders an option of extending their leases to 1996 or to the date of the death of the surviving spouse, whichever was the sooner, and offered this choice to the

leaseholders. Some 15 per cent of the outstanding leaseholders accepted that offer.

In 1979 the Ombudsman investigated this matter at the request of the leaseholders. He found the leaseholders had been treated fairly, not shabbily, in line with the government policy, and that the offer of 1978 was an eminently reasonable one for them to consider. Unfortunately, only 15 per cent of the leaseholders chose to accept it and they are the ones who are now seeking the advice of the member.

Mr. McGuigan: We are not questioning the right of the government to have made that policy back in 1954, or again in 1978 when they did the review. Now that 28 of these people are coming up to the end of their leases, and these are not people who took part in the 1978 change, it seems to me the government has the obligation to buy them out. Is the minister going to give them, as he has done in some cases, \$10,000 or \$15,000, or, as he has done in other cases, is he going to give them zero?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I am not aware of the payments to which the member is referring. The policy of the government has not really changed since 1954. There was a reprieve offered in 1978. I cannot tell the member that there has been any change in the 1978 position or that we suddenly have a policy that, when leases are surrendered or are asked to be surrendered, we will compensate on the basis of some appraised value of improvements to the property.

This has never been the case, and it would have some impact on many thousands of leases across the province. More important, it surely would have some impact on those who were in Rondeau Park originally and surrendered their leases without compensation under the old program.

ALCOHOL-RELATED ACCIDENTS

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. In a study of accidents in sport done by Dr. H. Dubo, head of rehabilitation medicine in Winnipeg, there were 31 cases of quadriplegia from diving in a six- or seven-year period. The majority of the people were diving into three and four feet of water. The average age was 23 and alcohol was involved in 72 per cent of these accidents.

Could the minister indicate whether his ministry does any studies with respect to accidents that might involve the use of alcohol in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will recall the specific reference to the dangers related to diving and particularly with the aspect of alcohol. It is primarily, if not exclusively, an injury that tends to occur among men from 16 to 26 years of age, or something such as that. I would like to think we have been in the forefront in trying to make sure there is public awareness of the dangers of diving into shallow water, be it in a lake, a pond, a river or a swimming pool. I think the press deserves a lot of credit for bringing this critical problem to the attention of the public for two summers in a row now. I mean that quite sincerely.

There has also been an emphasis placed on the fact that a great number of these incidents occur when people who have had the odd drink are fooling around. We cannot stop people from diving and doing some of these things. We can certainly try to have an impact on their awareness of what can happen as a result of a careless dive.

We are very interested in reviewing the studies that have been and continue to be done at Sunnybrook Medical Centre, primarily in the past by Dr. Charles Tator, who now is moving to the Toronto Western Hospital. I presume Dr. David Rowed or Dr. Michael Schwartz will carry on with those studies. After two summers of trying to heighten awareness of this issue, we will be very interested to see whether there is a diminishing number of quadriplegic and paraplegic injuries resulting from this problem.

Mr. Martel: I want to ask the minister a supplementary because the same study, and I am leading to a specific issue, indicated there were seven snowmobile accidents which resulted in three quadriplegic and four paraplegic cases. The average age was 22.5 and alcohol consumption was involved in 71 per cent of those accidents.

I am wondering about the lifestyle advertising of the alcohol industry, showing people in balloons and all the great things young people are doing with beer in particular—that one must have something to drink and then go out. It can lead to accidents. Are we doing any studies that might indicate that type of advertising is, I am not suggesting causing, but influencing or contributing to the type of accidents Dr. Dubo indicated in his study were devastating?

Since the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is responsible for advertising and the alcohol industry, are we doing any studies which might help us in trying to curb that type of advertising? If one looks at the age level, that might reduce the incidence of young people losing their whole livelihood.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I cannot recall whether there are specific studies, but I do know that over the years there has been legitimate concern expressed about this by the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) and by me. I recall the matter was raised under a previous minister. The member will recall so-called lifestyle advertising never shows people taking a drink and then going out to perform a sport.

3:10 p.m.

I have to tell the member that at a recent meeting I had with the Attorney General and the Minister of Health we concluded we need to go further than that. We need to reduce even the suggestion of lifestyle or at least modify it significantly. That is an issue I intend to be discussing with the board and with the industry. More attention must be addressed to that matter.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, has the minister considered the possibility of counter advertising as part of that picture? This summer after a party two young men went to Rondeau bay near my home, presumably for a swim. Later they were found washed up on the beach. Does the minister think it could be part of that advertising to show what happens after drinking? He is quite correct that the advertisers show it in the order of they work or play and then sit down to have a drink afterwards. Could we not follow that to show what is all too often the case; they then decide to go on some risky venture?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I do not think any of us are at odds with the concerns about anything that might lead people to do foolish things with respect to alcohol. That does not mean we can change the world. The member knows that and I know it. It does mean that we can thoughtfully try to address issues such as lifestyle advertising, which the Attorney General, the Minister of Health and I have discussed. I will be having meetings with the industry about this.

As the member probably knows, the Attorney General has set up what is called a drinking-driving countermeasures office to endeavour to introduce and stimulate proposals or measures that bring this very dramatic issue to the attention of the public. Lots of us understand things that can be done. Many things are being attempted. We have to continue with those endeavours, all of us understanding that we do not disagree on this point. It is a matter of how much and where one can properly direct those endeavours. Those are issues we have put our minds to.

TENDERING PRACTICES

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, is there any member in the House who is on the Management Board of Cabinet? Anybody home?

Mr. Speaker: I think not.

Mr. Sargent: Then I would like, on a point of privilege—I cannot, eh?

Mr. Van Horne: Try it anyway.

Mr. Sargent: They are in bad trouble over there. I will give this to the Minister of Government Services.

Mr. Speaker: All right.

Mr. Sargent: Most of us in this House have been in county, township, city or town governments. A basic premise of our society is letting contracts on a lowest tender basis. When it comes to Management Board, there has been a series of large contracts being let recently in direct contravention of this principle. In the last few days the minister does not appear to have been able to answer this question. He is never in the House.

I would like to ask the Minister of Government Services, if he is on that board, when is the report he promised he would have ready this fall going to come out?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, I am not a member of Management Board. The report the member is referring to is the study on the management practices of the government. They felt it was due because it had been many years. It was to look at how well government is doing and report accordingly.

I know the study is being done and has not been completed yet. Some of the second-stage interviews with ministers, deputies and senior staff are taking place now. Following that, I understand the consultants will be putting the report together and tabling it. I do not know the specific time frame.

Mr. Sargent: Management Board is at the point where it does not call tenders. It is verging on corruption in management unless this process is stopped. Those guys know the rules; they wrote the book, but they will not go by their own rules.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sargent: It is time someone reported to this House. As our leader asks, "What the hell is going on over there?"

Hon. Mr. Ashe: To use the same words, there are a hell of a lot of good things going on over here. When it comes to honesty in government and above-board tendering practices in awarding

tenders in a nonpartisan way, as they should be awarded, the record of this government does not hold second to any government in North America.

MINING EXEMPTIONS

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I hope you will bear with me as I attempt to roll a question and a supplementary into one minute.

My question to the Minister of Natural Resources has to do with exemptions from the processing requirements of section 104 of the Mining Act of Ontario. I assume the minister is aware that exemptions, granted by cabinet, now allow Ontario mining companies to ship unrefined ores to the United States, Norway, the United Kingdom, Japan, Sweden, Italy and Belgium.

I would like to know whether the minister is willing to re-examine those exemptions in view of the very high unemployment rate in northern Ontario? In the Sudbury district, for example, it has gone from 16,000 to 19,000 since February.

Would the minister re-examine in particular one exemption that has been granted to Inco to ship its unrefined nickel to Japan because, and I quote the cabinet reason, "Customers unwilling to accept fully refined material can get requirements elsewhere"? The customers are the Tokyo Nickel Company and Shimura Kako in Japan.

Given that these firms were involved with Inco in establishing the Indonesian—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Laughren: Can I not finish it?

Mr. Speaker: That is a very good question.

Mr. Laughren: I have not even put the question.

Mr. Speaker: The time is going. The Minister of Natural Resources will respond.

Mr. Laughren: Will the minister examine that particular one to make sure that Inco is not playing off its former partners against themselves in order to get these processing exemptions?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I am aware that from time to time these section 104 exemptions are controversial. We have discussed them during the course of estimates over the past three years. We will continue to re-examine them from time to time. I understand the member's position and I know he understands our position. We feel that employment in northern Ontario depends on this kind of flexibility.

Mr. Speaker: The time for oral questions has expired. May we have the consent of the House to revert to statements?

Agreed to.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

DEATH OF ENVIRONMENTALIST

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I thank the House for its indulgence in reverting to statements.

An environmental pioneer in Ontario passed away in St. Marys, Ontario, on Friday, October 19, 1984. I would be remiss if I did not pay tribute to the memory of Dr. Albert Edward Berry.

Dr. Berry pioneered safe drinking water in Ontario. He was an engineer who advocated water treatment and other health measures when typhoid and similar waterborne diseases were affecting the health and lives of the people of this province.

Following the First World War, Dr. Berry joined the then Department of Health of Ontario and rose to become the chief engineer of the sanitary engineering division of that department.

Subsequently, he was appointed the first general manager and chief engineer of the Ontario Water Resources Commission, the forerunner of today's Ministry of the Environment. In this position, he was responsible for the updating of water and sewage treatment facilities across the province. His pioneering spirit, his dedication and his expertise in the field were second to none.

3:20 p.m.

Dr. Berry was awarded the Order of Canada for his contribution to environmental engineering. He was the only man who served as both the president of the American Water Works Association and the Water Pollution Control Federation.

After he retired in 1963, he became a consultant to the World Health Organization and travelled throughout the world helping other countries, particularly those in the Third World, to correct their water supply problems, thereby safeguarding and improving the health of their citizens.

Dr. Berry has been eulogized as Canada's most distinguished environmentalist. Certainly his peers thought so, and as an inheritor of part of his legacy to environmental protection in this province, I too wish to acknowledge the contribution he made to the health and environmental progress of his beloved Ontario.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the business of the House, I wish to remind all members that pursuant to standing order 28(a),

the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) has advised of his dissatisfaction with the response by the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) to a question he put earlier. This will be debated at 10:30 this evening.

Mr. Wrye: Do not be too definite about that. This will be the third try.

Mr. Speaker: I will be here.

PETITIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from 1,170 college students. It reads:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We wish to declare our support of the issues that the teachers are fighting for in the colleges. An increase in their work load will only hurt us. It is already difficult for some students to get individual attention, and taking away classroom time limits for teachers will only intensify this situation.

"Extending the school year is not a solution to a long strike. Summer jobs will be lost to most students, and graduating students will miss out on full-time job opportunities also. As well, for many students it is necessary to work full-time for every possible week in the summer. If our year were to be extended, the possibility of not being able to afford another year of school could become a reality for too many of us.

"For every day of the strike that is not made up, we request the refund of our tuition fees. This is the third day of the strike. That means already, based on tuition fees alone, the 120,000 full-time students in the system have lost more than \$1.3 million worth of education, training we have already paid for. We will not pay for an education we are not getting.

"Another potential solution we do not agree with is that of the government legislating teachers back to work. The strike should be settled, not just ended. Most important, the teachers must retain their right to strike."

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition presented to my office by students at Niagara College, dated October 11, 1984. It is signed by 881 petitioners. I thought you should have it and see that the appropriate minister receives it.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"All our future depends upon the preservation of Ontario's education system. We, the students of Niagara College of Applied Arts and Tech-

nology, feel strongly that both parties return to the bargaining table and reach an equitable solution now."

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

PUBLIC VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Martel moved, seconded by Mr. Foulds, first reading of Bill 127, An Act to amend the Public Vehicles Act.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, this bill would prevent school bus passengers from standing in the aisle while the bus is in motion. Some kids are travelling 30 and 40 miles standing. The present regulation allows one third of the passengers to be standing in the aisle while in transit. I think the whole thing is crazy.

CITY OF OTTAWA ACT

Mr. MacQuarrie moved, seconded by Mr. Kolyn, first reading of Bill Pr32, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. J. A. Reed moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside in order to debate a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the report on the Niagara Escarpment Plan: Recommended Policies of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, which has been submitted to cabinet for final approval but which has not been debated publicly in this Legislature; the apparent subservience of this plan to the government's mineral aggregate resource planning policy, resulting in the potential destruction of up to 63,000 acres of Niagara Escarpment land; the encouragement of the location of pits and quarries under the wayside process in the escarpment protection area contrary to the goal of that designation; and the encouragement of the circumvention of the licensing procedure for wayside pits.

Mr. Speaker: I would advise the honourable member that I will be prepared to hear for up to five minutes why he thinks the ordinary business of the House should be set aside.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, members will recall that about a year ago the subject of the Niagara Escarpment report was raised and debated in this Legislature before it was taken for consideration by the government.

Both the government and we ourselves agreed that while the debate might be useful, it was probably premature. The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling) said, "I would have thought it would be more prudent perhaps to have this debate after I had an opportunity to formulate my position on the various matters." He went on to say, "I will be constrained in some ways from commenting on specific issues." I believe the official opposition, while agreeing with the necessity of a debate, felt it was premature in nature.

It is our feeling that this is the proper time, between the time this plan was submitted to the provincial secretary and the time the cabinet will make its final decision. The problems that have been encountered, which appear to have developed as a result of this Niagara Escarpment plan, should be thoroughly aired so the minister may make his commentary and we may understand what the wording in the Niagara Escarpment plan really means and whether some other governmental policies will take precedence over the Niagara Escarpment plan, negating its impact.

3:30 p.m.

We are concerned specifically with incorporating the proposed aggregate policy into the Planning Act, the obvious result being that any public hearing where a hearing officer has to accede to that provincial policy would give it preference or would appear to give it preference over the Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act.

Two prevalent schools of thought seem to have emerged in the past few weeks, and we believe now is the time to air those so we all know what the wording of this sometimes confused proposed policy really means. Now is the appropriate time for this debate in the Legislature, and I ask that every member of the Legislature give this motion his support.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, as I am sure everyone expects, I want to say we will support the call for the debate in this House. All members of this House, whether or not they agree with this, will recognize that we in this party have taken a strong stand all along on preservation of the Niagara Escarpment and that we are united within our party on that stand.

The House will remember that last fall we called for and did have a special debate on the two plans that had been submitted, one by the hearing officers and one by the Niagara Escarpment Commission. I initiated that on behalf of my party.

While we support the proposal for the debate, it comes as something of a surprise with real questions surrounding the reasons for which the Liberals are presenting this now. One has to ask the question, "Are they simply trying to recoup some political losses?" After all, the House has been sitting for two weeks and nobody in the Liberal Party has raised this issue. We raised the issue in this House a week ago yesterday, within the first week of the House sitting.

More than that, there was a period of six weeks from the time the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development tabled the proposed plan in which submissions could be made by any interested party relative to changes in that proposed plan. The minister may mention this when he rises. I am not sure whether the cabinet received 225 or 125 submissions on this matter. The Liberals made no submission whatever on the plan during those six weeks. It is true that the honourable member who is proposing this motion did write a letter subsequent to that, four days afterwards.

The real time to make submissions under the act went by and the Liberals did not even think it was worthy of presenting a brief. We in this party presented an eight-page brief which included our concerns about the priority in the minister's plan given to the extraction of aggregate on the escarpment.

The motion we have before us today says nothing about the dangers of development control. The whole matter of development control is a very important one, because it can bypass all the official plans and zoning bylaws and permit a county, region or local municipality to do almost anything it likes without the public hearings one has to have for normal changes of official plans and zoning bylaws. That is extremely dangerous not only for the matter of aggregates but also for any kind of development on the escarpment. This motion says nothing about that.

As I have already mentioned, my question a week ago pertained precisely to the issue in the resolution today where Regan Graham Ltd. is given permission to take more than a million tons from a wayside pit in the Caledon area. When I raised that question in the House, the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) did give what I thought was a reply of some concern, and there may be a favourable response from the minister. I hope the minister will get up today and say, "Yes, we are going to change that along the lines requested; so there is no need for the debate to take place today."

What a use for a wayside pit. My goodness, that cannot be classed as a wayside pit in any part of the province—a million tons? To allow a wayside pit in what was a protected area of the escarpment surely has to negate any of the statements, the act and all the rest of what is proposed to preserve the escarpment. We must have this policy changed. The debate today might help to bring that about and so I support it.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Mr. Speaker, it is evident from our government's stand on July 31 that we are indeed interested, as I believe are the other members who have spoken on this motion, in the preservation of our Niagara Escarpment. I hope that was evidenced in the proposals put forward by the plan. As was mentioned in the previous remarks, I believe last October we had a debate on the Niagara Escarpment, which I did not oppose at that time; I thought it might be helpful then to consider it.

As to this particular motion dealing with the aggregate issue in the Niagara Escarpment plan, I welcome a debate on this issue at some time. I feel it is important to inform the members of the House, however—and if I had been asked, I would have revealed this fact—that the cabinet will not be dealing with this issue until at least well on into December and may not deal with it until the new year. For that reason, the urgency of this particular issue is not there, and in those circumstances I oppose bringing forward this motion and a debate now.

If the members would like to debate this some evening, and such a debate could be arranged, I would be most pleased to do so. In terms of the scope of the debate, it would be better to be a little further on into the process of reviewing more than 200 appeals to cabinet at that time. As members must realize, each and every appeal to cabinet has to be dealt with in a fair and equitable manner, and the time lag between my recommendations, the close-off date, which was September 14, and the cabinet being able to come forward with its final proposal will be of reasonable duration.

If the member who put forward this motion would like to write to me about clarifications of my recommendations, I would be most pleased to respond to him or to any other member of this House. The response that will follow from that, of course, will be the decision of not only myself but also my cabinet colleagues.

Having said all that, as I have indicated already, Mr. Speaker, I welcome such a debate, but there is no urgency to the matter at this time

and therefore I oppose going forward with the motion and a debate this afternoon.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully and attentively to the submissions put forward by the honourable members to the House. I do have severe reservations about this matter, as I did when a similar debate took place in the last session. I have a great deal of difficulty in finding the motion in order. In fact, I find it is out of order in relation to our standing orders.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Why?

Mr. Speaker: I am glad you asked, inasmuch as in my opinion it does not fall within the criteria set out specifically in standing order 34(c)(i), "The matter proposed for discussion must relate to a genuine emergency, calling for immediate and urgent consideration." I cannot so find; so I have to rule the motion out of order.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Mr. Speaker, with respect, this is the fall session of this Legislature and the report has been tabled, the submissions have been made to the minister and it becomes of an emergent nature.

Mr. Speaker: You may appeal the ruling if you so desire, but you cannot continue the debate.

Mr. J. A. Reed: All right, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully appeal that ruling. Inasmuch as this is the fall session, the material has been tabled and the cabinet is going to make its decision in December, this is of an emergent nature.

Mr. Speaker: All you have to do is say you appeal the ruling and I will put the vote to the House.

4:05 p.m.

The House divided on the Speaker's ruling, which was sustained on the following vote:

Ayes

Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Brandt, Cousens, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Henderson, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McMurtry, McNeil, Norton, Piché, Pollock, Ramsay, Robinson, Runciman, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Bradley, Bryden, Charlton, Conway, Cooke, Di Santo, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston,

Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, Peterson, Philip, Reed, J. A., Renwick, Riddell, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Sargent, Spensieri, Stokes, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Worton, Wrye.

Ayes 53; nays 40.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I should indicate that there is a change in the business of the House for today. This evening we will deal first with second reading of Bill 119, An Act to amend the Education Act. Following consideration of that bill, we will deal with the budget debate.

Since many will want to attend because of the speaker, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) is going to honour us with his speech today.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 101, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, I have a statement I would like to make at this time.

The Deputy Chairman: May I suggest that the normal way to proceed is to deal with sections.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Could I ask the consent—

The Deputy Chairman: If there is an opening statement, then everyone else will have an opening statement, and we might never get out of the opening statements and into the bill.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Perhaps I could just take a moment to explain the reason for an opening statement and then you can make a ruling accordingly, or perhaps ask the members opposite for—

The Deputy Chairman: All I do is caution the minister, with every desire to expedite business, that if an opening statement is desired, it means we will get into opening statements. I have been here when we have never got out of the opening statements.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Perhaps I could just take one minute to make one comment. When we left committee this fall there were some outstanding issues. I promised to address those outstanding issues and to bring them to the attention of the

Legislature at the beginning of the session today. I was just honouring that commitment. If you tell me I am out of order—

The Deputy Chairman: No. I just want to make sure the House is happy with whatever we do.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, the minister is right; there were some issues that were not completed at the committee stage. I do not have any particular objection if the minister is going to have an opening statement about the general feeling of Bill 101 or about new amendments he is planning to introduce. The House should be aware of the minister's intention, aside from the principle that he has to reply to certain things that were uncompleted at the time the committee rose.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the honourable member for his help.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I want to make it abundantly clear that I have no objection if the minister is making an opening statement; but should you find yourself in the position where the opposition parties also want to make opening statements, I am sure you will allow that.

The Deputy Chairman: That is why we should get agreement at the beginning.

Mr. Martel: That is why I am trying to get the clarification from you now, Mr. Chairman, before we get into a hassle.

The Deputy Chairman: I thank the member for Sudbury East. There is a big cliff out there. What I am suggesting is that if there is an opening statement from the minister, there will be opening statements from the other parties.

Mr. Martel: If they so desire.

The Deputy Chairman: If they wish. It is a matter for the committee to decide whether that is what it wants to do.

Mr. Nixon: It is certainly by agreement, Mr. Chairman. You are entirely correct. When we are dealing with the bill clause by clause, that is precisely the way the debate proceeds: anybody who wants to speak on section 1 does so and he or she has a chance to do so in response to other comments; the section is either amended or carried and we go on to the next one.

I agree with you, sir, that it is a very dangerous precedent to get into this opening statements stuff. We did it on another bill and it simply took us weeks to get out of it. You will recall our procedure in estimates, where opening statements have expanded and ballooned until we

hear nothing but the contrived tripe that goes for opening statements. I suggest that you apply the rules and that we get on with this bill section by section.

The Deputy Chairman: I would like to do that. If that is the case, I would like to proceed with section 1, but I do recognize with pleasure the member for Dovercourt.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, with the greatest respect, I believe certain members are not aware of the extensive work that has taken place at the committee stage and the commitment by the minister to reply to specific concerns raised by Liberal members and members of my party in relation to specific issues regarding the bill per se. I do not have any objection if the minister is going to make an opening statement about something that must be clarified as a result of the extensive work that took place during the summer. I think the members should be aware of the intent of the minister at this time.

The Deputy Chairman: The chair recognizes that the member would like to expedite the business of the House. In the tradition in which we have operated in committee, there is no great tradition for opening statements. The chair would therefore like to proceed with it section by section. As matters arise, if the minister wishes to comment, the committee of the whole House rules will be operational.

Therefore, the chair rules we shall deal with Bill 101 section by section. There will be opportunities within each section for the minister to apprise the members of things that have arisen since earlier discussions.

Mr. Lupusella: If I may, I understand the chairman's position is to follow the practice he just enunciated. Is there any possibility that the minister will distribute a copy of such opening statement to the two parties at this time?

The Deputy Chairman: If the minister wants a copy sent to other members on things he wants to say, that is entirely up to him. As background information, I see nothing wrong with it.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am prepared to do that as background information for the critics of the other two parties.

The Deputy Chairman: The amendment I have received from the minister is to section 3. Shall sections 1 and 2 carry? No?

On section 1:

Mr. Martel: If I might, Mr. Chairman, I would like to speak on the definition of industrial disease in subsection 1(5).

I grow increasingly concerned about the whole matter of industrial disease and how it affects workers in the industrial sector. Eventually, this is going to be the item that is going to do in the board and the whole concept of workers' compensation.

The problem of industrial disease is going to get worse, not better and the number of people who are being granted compensation benefits under this section is negligible.

There is a difference in medical interpretation on any industrial disease. One doctor says "Yes," the next doctor says "No," and there is no consensus. One can set up as many tribunals as one wants, but it is not going to sort it out. It is impossible because there is no agreement. One has to have a virtual litany of death in a particular plant before one is able to obtain benefits for a worker or workers who have died from an industrial disease.

I only have to draw the minister's attention to the experience of the sintering plant at Inco. When one talks about industrial disease one talks about a latency period of anywhere from 10 to 15 years for most industrial diseases from known carcinogens. There are probably between 300 and 350 accepted known carcinogens, some much more severe than others, some considered mild, but in fact very few are recognized in terms of what they do in the work place.

4:20 p.m.

I believe we have regulations pertaining to only eight substances in this province. At the same time as we recognize only eight substances that are affecting workers, between 500 and 1,000 new substances are coming on to the market annually. Most of them, in fact, are not tested. There is no system of testing either those compounds or the new chemicals we are using. There is no way of breaking down the formula so workers know what they are exposed to.

The whole term "industrial disease," which indicates we will send it off to a committee of doctors willy-nilly, is so much hokum because we do not know which of those substances are causing the disease and we do not know and cannot get medical consensus on whether it is something we will accept as causing the problem.

If I relate back to Inco and the sintering plant, there are now over 100 men dead in that one operation, but it took a virtual torrent of claims to establish cancer from the old sintering plant. We had to count the bodies before anyone would even look at it. The steelworkers were on to it long before the medical profession was. I want to

say to my friend who chaired this committee that the Workers' Compensation Board was dead on the issue.

It was the steelworkers, together with a Dr. Cecilioni from Hamilton, the only doctor who would come to our aid as we flew by the seat of our pants. Because of the great number of cancer cases that were occurring, we suspected there was something wrong. The Workers' Compensation Board was totally useless.

I want to bring it up to date. It is too bad the minister is not here. I remind members of Wilco just two short years ago and the lead poisoning of some 20 workers. At that time the compensation board did not get hold of the Minister of Labour and say: "My God, there is a problem. We have 20 young men, aged 19, 20, 21 and 22, who have lead poisoning." Where was the compensation board in its role of identifying the fact that a great number of young men had suffered lead poisoning? It was found wanting.

I think the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), as a former medical person, would agree with me that it difficult to determine or to get agreement on what industrial diseases are caused by exposure to something in the work place. It is very difficult. We play this silly game of, "Yes, if you have got the proper latency period," and "Yes, if you are exposed to certain levels." Whether it is sinter from the old sintering plant or whether it is lead, we cannot get agreement.

My friends in the medical profession tell me fewer than one in 100 of the cancer cases that are occurring in the work place are now recognized by the Workers' Compensation Board. There is no way the board has the wisdom of Solomon to say, "Yes, it is caused by this," and "No, it is not caused by that." We throw all the smokescreens in the world in the place. We say, "If it is asbestos, it is because he smokes."

That contributes to it. I was just reading an interesting paper by Dr. Irving Selikoff called "Twenty Lessons from Asbestos." Certainly, smoking increases the incidence, but what about the original percentage? What about other factors? We have eight regulations in the province. The whole thing is totally perverse and it cannot give the workers who are suffering from industrial disease the protection to which they are entitled.

One could look at another interesting case I raised several years ago. It dealt with cancer at Canadian General Electric. Where was the Workers' Compensation Board and where was

Canadian General Electric when all those women were dying from cancer?

I could go on for an hour and a half if I wanted to, because I have reached the point where I do not know how we are going to grapple with it. As I say, a committee of medical people who are going to make that determination is crazy. It will not work; it cannot work. I do not know who is misleading the minister into believing that if he sets up some sort of medical tribunal he can sort it out. He cannot, and I defy someone to get up in this House and tell me I am wrong.

Not a thing that we are doing in the changes to the act is going to protect workers from suffering these horrible diseases. We are changing only how we are going to protect their families in the event they become disabled or die. The government is still playing the game. Somebody is playing games by trying to imply that if the government gets this panel in place and defines "industrial disease," then that has resolved the problem.

The government has not touched it, and that is what infuriates me so much. It has not dealt with the problem. A definition is not enough; the minister has to be crazy to believe a definition or a medical panel is enough. The minister could have a litany of industrial diseases.

Let us look at Wilco. Did it tell the Ministry of Labour that lead poisoning was going on? No way. What about the women at Canadian General Electric and the types of cancer they were suffering from? Did anybody tell the Ministry of Labour that this was going on? Did anybody from the board say, "Wait a minute; we have had seven or eight deaths in that plant"? We have had seven or eight deaths, but I do not think one has been compensated.

With all the respect I have for Paul Weiler, I am told by doctors that his figures are crazy. Did he say one in 30 or one in 17? I am told it is not even close to that. Probably fewer than one in 100 is being recognized. How are we going to resolve that problem? How are we going to deal with that problem now when we amend this act with a major overhaul for the first time in how many years? We have not dealt with it and we are not going to deal with it.

What about the Elliot Lake miners? If one works underground at Elliot Lake and is exposed to radon daughters in excessive amounts and there is no past history—they did not keep the records—he might get a claim. If he sits on the yellow cake in the concentrator, he ends up with lung cancer or with some form of cancer. And they do; the steelworkers union has at least 50 or

60 cases. That is not recognized. It does not make sense. What about a mill worker who sits on the bloody stuff?

In fact, one of the companies was really good. It went in and painted the whole building yellow so one could not tell how much of the yellow dust was from the refining capacity that was there. They painted the whole thing yellow because the stuff that was going up from the process was yellow. Sure, if they paint the whole building yellow, people cannot tell how much is getting on the walls.

4:30 p.m.

It goes on. Which of those workers got cancer because he was working with uranium? We have known for a long time. I think history notes that in 1917 in Czechoslovakia, Poland or someplace the first case of cancer from uranium was identified. Here we are in 1984 and we do not give the worker the benefit of the doubt. There is no doubt in the board's decision-making. There have not been enough statistics on enough people dying under certain conditions to warrant giving pensions.

I have never found a thing that bothered me more than dealing with this area because people can rationalize it. They say: "The compound was not enough. The time exposure was not enough. Where do all these crazy ideas come from unless a whole series of people die first?" We say: "Enough have died. There must be something that causes it and, therefore, we will recognize it." The whole thing is totally perverse.

This minister has moved ahead and I think has brought in eight substances, but that is not going to resolve it. It just is not. It is as simple as that. We cannot sort it out. That is why New Zealand moved to a system where, if one got disabled at work from a heart attack or through illness, one was disabled.

A person needs two things when he is disabled. He needs income and physical rehabilitation, and perhaps retraining. The government cannot sort it out and it is never going to be able to sort it out.

They came to their senses in New Zealand a number of years ago and said: "If you are disabled, you are disabled. The purpose should be to get people healed as well as possible and back to work."

The list could go on. They talk about differences in industrial disease. I was talking to one of the minister's staff recently. If one looks at white hand syndrome, better known as Raynaud's disease, one has to have—what is it?—two years or five years before one recognizes that one

gets white hand syndrome from dealing with vibrating equipment. It must be effective the time one leaves. It must affect one right after he leaves the work place.

The interesting part is the difference in opinion of the medical profession today, that that is crazy. There is the ageing process. Even though it does not show up right away, the damage is done to the blood vessels and the hands. As one gets older, the aging process affects the blood vessels even more. If one does not meet the criteria the board has laid down, that it has to be two years of exposure to that prior to leaving the work place, one does not have the benefit of the doubt and one does not get compensated on white hand or Raynaud's disease.

Is there agreement even between the board and the Ministry of Labour staff? There is not. I am told that in England they have now come to the conclusion that one can get white hand syndrome in three months in certain types of occupation. However, in Ontario we have this crazy formula, the crazy criteria that say one has to be exposed to it for two years, backdating it from the time one first got it, and one has to be working for that two years.

The medical profession disagrees. Some say, "Yes, that is right." Others say: "No, it is through the ageing process. It occurs three or four years later, or perhaps years later." Who gets shafted because of the disagreement? Is it the Workers' Compensation Board, the industry, the doctors who disagree, or is it the injured worker and his family?

We will never be able to sort it out, but we try. My colleagues say it is section 86, the definition at the first stage. They tell me every time they tried to speak on this the government bowed and paid homage to that section, which would set up a medical tribunal to try to sort it out. It is not going to work.

I listed a couple that occurred at Wilco involving lead, and the board did not tell the minister that lead poisoning was happening. It was at the sintering plant. We counted the bodies. At Elliot Lake we counted the bodies underground. I was there in 1974, 1975 and 1976. I am still trying to find out why those workers who get cancer working in the concentrators are not entitled to benefits.

I am told the Sudbury Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union and the Steelworkers union between them have accumulated over 100 cases of cancer underground. It cannot be proved. Everybody says, "In hardrock mining there is no silicate dust in the type of ores we have in the

Sudbury basin." What is causing it? Is it all lifestyle? Are some more prone to it? It could be diesel fumes, I do not know.

We cannot resolve that jigsaw puzzle. We do not have the wisdom of Solomon needed to do it. In the process it will be families, wives left out in the cold without husbands or sources of income. To relate it the other way, referring to Canadian General Electric and the many cases we know about there with no resolution to them, there are husbands who are left without spouses, husbands with children.

We try to dicker around the edges. We try to play around the edges with everything. Our whole bent is that we cannot affect industry. The minister knows my position on these toxic substances. We should pretest them all. If one does not pass, we should not let it in. We should not use it until it is proved safe, but the government will not accept that.

Then there is the other option. We can say, "If anyone dies of cancer and we cannot prove it is work related but it certainly looks like it, we will automatically give the family the benefit of the doubt." That will not happen either.

I know what industry has said. When the minister said that because he was going to introduce the changes that meant a 40 per cent levy or something like that for the next two or three years, industry went crazy. I heard Inco say, "My God, we are going to have to charge 23 cents more on the pound for nickel to pay that bill."

We have a third option, do we not? That is the one we have opted for. It is the one we always opt for. It is to let the family and the kids struggle. We can put them on disability until the husband or wife dies and then we can put them on welfare. We cannot take chances. We cannot always give the benefit of the doubt. The government is not going to sort it out. What is the answer? I suggest this is not the answer.

We could not bring the top 100 doctors in any field together and get consensus, but we are going to have a tribunal. How many are on that tribunal? Three?

Mr. Haggerty: Nine.

Mr. Martel: But at any given time? Three or nine, it does not matter. It will not matter because they will not be able to sort it out. I appreciate what the minister is trying to do, but it will not deal with the real problem which is, as I have said to the industry and the minister, that until we eradicate those things and not allow them to be used in the work place, we will not sort it out.

4:40 p.m.

In the United States the major corporations are now getting together, if members can imagine, to pool their resources to fight certain cases so that a precedent is not set. About a year ago I listened to a lawyer from the United States at a conference in Toronto. He said they are putting up as much as \$1 million to fight one case so as not to allow it to be proved that one worker is dying.

As I say, if we think we can do it where there is a wholesale loss of life and we have difficulty—and my friend the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane) knows the problem—how are we ever going to sort it out when it concerns only one person? That is the final test. If we count bodies, as we did at Elliot Lake and so on, we ultimately prove part of it. But how are we ever going to prove for one person that he was prone to these toxic substances which he was exposed to and that this is what caused him to die of cancer or of whatever other industrial disease?

No one wants to tell me how we can assess that this one death from cancer, if I may use cancer as the example, resulted from this person being less able to withstand the exposure to the substances with which he was working. We will never prove it. Never in 100 years will we prove a single, isolated cancer death in an industry, a small plant or a small operation, because the only places we have been able to prove it are those in which we were able to count bodies.

We still have that horrible television advertisement dealing with asbestos—

Mr. Haggerty: “If he only knew.”

Mr. Martel: “If he only knew.” If that dumb, stupid slob of a workman had only known that working with asbestos was going to kill him. And you see this poor, gaunt-looking man on a bed.

Mr. Haggerty: That should have been his right from the beginning.

Mr. Martel: Yes, and there is not even a right to know law.

One of the things for which I have difficulty forgiving the minister is for not saying to the Workers' Compensation Board, “Pull that rotten ad totally.” I know he looked at it. I would have said, “You pull that damned ad fast.” It is so horrendous and so distorts the reality that the workers know. They do not know; my God, they do not know.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, I do not think the honourable member is quite up to date with the circumstances. I have written to the Construction Safety Association of Ontario and made a strong recommendation. A meeting was

held yesterday. I will have a decision on this within the next day or two; so action has been taken.

I would also suggest to the honourable member that there was some problem because there were labour representatives who approved that ad in the first place. One of those labour representatives called the member's research department and suggested the party back off because he wanted to retain that particular advertisement.

Despite that, I did write a strongly worded letter, a copy of which I sent to the member for Scarborough West (Mr. R. F. Johnston); he knows all about what is going on. So I suggest that the member opposite is not quite up to date.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the minister says. I withdraw my remarks. If somebody from labour said it was adequate, I disagree fundamentally with him. I think it is just awful to get that kind of advertisement.

As I look at most of the WCB advertisements—I must say this in all fairness—and at the ads run by the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, it is always the worker who is the dummy in the piece. Has anyone ever found that strange?

The other one that really tickles my fancy shows a worker whose little girl asks him, “Are you coming home safe tonight, Daddy?” He was stupid enough to get run over by the back wheels of a big truck.

Has anyone ever pictured the foreman or the big brass sending some guy underground or into some operation that was not safe? Why do we not make an ad about Rothsay, where the foreman sent the man down into a pit containing a huge egg-beater thing? When the guy climbed into the egg-beater to break the ice and take the feathers away, upstairs somebody put the switch on and the guy needed 250 stitches. Fortunately, he was rather small and he went through the 14-inch opening as it threw him out.

Did anyone ever see the IAPA run an ad like that and say to management, “You have to be careful”?

Mr. Haggerty: They are exempt now under the act. You cannot touch them.

Mr. Martel: Yes, the worker is dumb. Part of it is because he cannot get the information. That horrible ad says he should have known better. Maybe we could do an ad about the Elliot Lake miners, saying they should have known better too back in 1965 or 1970.

“If he only knew.” That is so true. If only so many companies were not so interested in hiding the facts. The minister knows that as well as I do.

I will be the first to admit some companies are good, but others are dogs. Then the IAPA or the WCB puts out an ad and says, "If he only knew." He should know. He should also have the option of whether he works in there, but when it comes to industrial diseases, he will never know. He cannot know because even the medical profession does not agree.

How are we going to sort that problem out? By a panel? We can count bodies when we get enough of them stacked up. Then we will get some recognition for workers in a particular work place. But for the one or two in any work place, the answer is, "He simply got cancer," and therefore the worker has no benefits. Yet we know that more than 300 substances currently are carcinogenic. How do we sort that out?

It is time this Legislature dealt with that problem seriously. How are we going to sort it out? I look at my friends on the back benches. Farmers, more than anyone else, do not have a clue what the herbicides, insecticides and pesticides they are using are doing to them. In fact, what was so horrendous was that they fought like mad against coming under Bill 70, but if we look at the statistics for farmers under the WCB, they are right at the top of the heap.

We are not going to prove any of this. We have no way of proving it until we have a body count. When we have the body count, we also have backed up another 100 or so who have had the right latency period of 15 to 20 years before it starts to show up.

The minister is not going to convince me that a panel of nine doctors is going to do it. Maybe he could, if he tried to convince me really hard. Maybe he can tell me, if there are only one or two deaths in a particular operation, how we can prove, if there is industrial disease, whether it is a result of the exposure to whatever substance is in that place. How is he going to do it without the body count? That is the real problem. It makes it simpler to get benefits if we have a lot more dead. We cannot do it with one or two.

4:50 p.m.

There is no agreement in the medical profession. As I said, I was reading Irving Selikoff's statement. If anyone wants to read it, it is a very short article that appeared just recently called "Twenty Lessons from Asbestos." Many of the things he says in it I have already raised, such as lifestyle.

Mr. Haggerty: The board does not listen to that expert.

Mr. Martel: No, the board does not listen. My friend Dr. Jim Nessercoth has an interesting

case right now involving a young Korean man whose job was to grind brakes in a plant. He got mesothelioma. The board's specialist—I guess it is Dr. Ritchie, who is the great Pooh-Bah in all of this—has a couple of people from British Columbia who said, "This is from ingesting asbestos." Brake shoes are full of asbestos. "It is from his job grinding the brake shoes down."

Dr. Nessercoth is a specialist, a dermatologist. He finally went to Selikoff to try to get help, because the board in its wisdom, despite all the medical support, said: "No, it cannot be. There are not people dying from cancer from grinding down brake shoes. It could never be that."

That is what I say to the minister is the final test. Even when one has medical people who say yes, the board says no, and there is disagreement. If there are only one or two cases, that family is out. That worker will not get benefits and there is no way we are ever going to sort it out.

This is not enough, I say to the minister. Even at 11:59, just before midnight, as we bring this bill in, it is not enough; it is not going to resolve the problem. I want the minister to tell me now how he is going to overcome this problem of identification not only of cancer but of lead poisoning, of white hand syndrome.

I just read about two or three interesting cases of carpal tunnel syndrome. It seems there is even a mixup at the board. I have written to the chairman to suggest that it would appear to me as an ordinary layperson that the board is using the same criteria for carpal tunnel syndrome as it is for white hand syndrome. I will show the Minister of Education the three cases if she would like.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That would be difficult.

Mr. Martel: It certainly is difficult. That is what amazed me as an ordinary lay slob: how in God's name the two can be mixed up. I cannot be convinced that could happen. I know the minister is going to convince me here as I resume my place how he is going to sort out this whole problem of industrial disease. I await with interest.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, in making some comments about this section, I want to add my concerns to the comments already expressed on this difficult subject of industrial disease. It is a difficult subject for several reasons, the main one being the devastation it brings to the individual who suffers and to that individual's family.

Unfortunately, our record here in Ontario has not been very good. We had the situation with Johns-Manville Canada Inc. and Bendix Heavy

Vehicles Systems Inc. I know the Minister of Education will agree that those two situations certainly brought the issue forth as it has never been brought before, either years ago, at present or, I would hope, in the future. Because the minister is a doctor, I am sure she realizes just how much those poor people suffered.

I have to take offence at the commercials that have been run over this past year, and perhaps longer, where we see a very sad-looking, deteriorated person lying in bed with all kinds of tubes running from his arms, looking pale, thin and very sickly, to say the least, and Mr. Voice-over says, "If he only knew."

I have to agree that is a considerable distortion of the truth. We did know asbestos was dangerous. People in the business knew, and perhaps officials in the government and people in the medical profession knew, that working with that substance was very dangerous. We were not told, the workers were not told and the general public was not told.

However, once the situation reached epidemic proportions, it was not difficult to put all the pieces together. It amazes me that in a situation where nobody knew anything, it was very easy to put all the pieces together after the fact and come to the conclusion that it absolutely was the asbestos that had caused illness to so many people.

We had a situation with Bendix Heavy Vehicle Systems Inc., not far from my own constituency in Windsor, where a person was awarded a disability pension. I believe it turned into the spouse's disability pension after a short time. I am told that after the individual passed away, the company appealed the decision to the board. The minister may be familiar with that case. There could have been another one; I do not recall right now. I do not have those files in front of me.

Mr. Martel: It is Lucy Dunn, is it not?

Mr. Mancini: Yes, I think it is the case my friend mentions.

We have been confronted squarely and in a very ugly manner, if I may use that word, with how devastating industrial disease can be. I am not sure exactly what benefit we are going to get from this section of the act. The fact that the minister is moving forward with this legislation and with the section we are dealing with may help. It may help because it is in the bill that we are going to have the panel. That in itself may give some credence and may give the board some willpower in that area possibly to grant claims.

However, as has been said before, we hate to believe that a great number of people have to

suffer before an industrial disease correlation is actually found. We would like to believe that it can be found early on and that people who have suffered are not only compensated but also that their colleagues in the work place can be immediately protected.

I want to express my concern about the fact that we recognize only eight substances that can cause industrial disease. It has been stated before, and it will be stated over and over again, that we cannot forget the worker in this scenario. With the number of new chemicals that are being produced and used in the work place on a regular basis every day and with the new things that are being brought forward for the betterment of all, these people believe, we cannot forget the person who is involved in the work place and who has to use these chemicals or agents on a regular daily basis.

5 p.m.

I am glad we have the panel. I hope we can do something. I hope it can be done as fast as possible. I hope there is no need for great suffering before we conclude that certain substances can and do create industrial diseases.

However, I am disappointed with our past record and with those commercials. I do not know if every member of the House has seen those commercials, but they are truly offensive. I know the minister has, over a period, repeatedly expressed concern on a wide number of issues. Frankly, I think most members and most people who have worked with the minister believe he is concerned and that within all his limitations—cabinet solidarity and all the political limitations he has as a member of the Conservative Party—he does try to do the best he can.

I am surprised that he would try to defend those commercials because they are truly some of the—

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Let me see if I can throw a little more light on the matter of the commercials. I responded to the member for Sudbury East, who withdrew his comments after I explained, but perhaps the honourable member was out of the chamber at that time.

Mr. Martel: I withdrew my remarks.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I know, and I appreciated that.

When this matter was first brought to my attention—

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. Minister, I have a point of order.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, may I speak after the minister?

The Deputy Chairman: Absolutely. We are in committee and if it is dealing with subsection 1(5), then we can move to subsection 1(6).

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Let me give the background of this as briefly as I can. When the matter was first brought to my attention, it is true I did not agree with the criticism at the time. I happen to have a bit of background in the communications business and I was assessing the commercials on their effectiveness. There is no doubt the commercials got attention and got their message across. I defended them on that basis.

Then the second argument started to come to me that this one commercial was placing the blame on the workers. Then at committee one day—and I think the honourable member in the back row will attest to this—when the matter was brought up, I said: “Look, I will get the storyboards in. If you give me a revised copy, I will be happy to have the appropriate people look at it.” With the greatest of respect, I do not believe I ever got that revised copy.

The member for Scarborough West, who is ill, brought to my attention a third point. He really got my attention on the point that the families of asbestos victims, now and previous, were finding this commercial particularly offensive. At that point I wrote to the Construction Safety Association of Ontario—not to the Workers’ Compensation Board or the Industrial Accident Prevention Association—which had the commercial assessed and approved by a joint labour-management group.

In any event, the board of directors, acting upon my letter, met yesterday. They called me for some further information, which I gave to them. They also relayed to me the fact that they had had a—the word escapes me at the moment; I should know it because I was familiar with it when I was in the business—but they assessed the value of the commercials. There is a service available to find out whether the commercials are getting attention and to find out whether or not there is acceptance or rejection.

They found—and bear me out on this; these figures may not be entirely correct, but they will be reasonably close—it had a very high identification factor; in other words, people remembered the commercial. It was something like 90 per cent, which is unheard of for a commercial. They found that 75 per cent of the people who were polled did not take exception to the commercial. They also found that more than 50 per cent of the people polled did find something wrong with the commercial. That is higher than normal too.

I apologize for going into such detail, but this seems to be a subject of concern to everyone. The bottom line is that the Construction Safety Association of Ontario is pulling that commercial out of rotation. It will not be used again until further consideration is given to the whole matter.

I cannot give the House an absolute assurance the commercial will not show up again. However, at the moment, the chances of it appearing again, certainly in its present form, are minimal.

Mr. Lupusella: I would like to correct the record—

The Deputy Chairman: Excuse me. I am sorry. The member for Essex South wanted to finish his remarks. Then we will go back to you.

Mr. Mancini: I believe the minister was up on a point of privilege, or was going to clarify something. I am sorry, but I was talking to one of his staff members when he was in this discussion with the member for Sudbury East. I do not know why the member for Sudbury East had to withdraw what he said and, having heard what the minister said, I do not believe I have said anything I should withdraw.

I can see why the families of people who have suffered from asbestosis would find the commercials offensive. I can see why they would want them to be withdrawn. We still have not addressed the matter of these commercials being factually incorrect when Mr. Voice-over boldly states, “only if we had known,” leaving the impression we did not know, when in fact we did.

I have to agree with the minister. These commercials are very effective because they are so ugly. This is the only way I can describe them. They are ugly, offensive and factually incorrect. I am glad they are going to be withdrawn.

I want to wind up my comments on this section by saying I firmly believe that in the future we are going to be spending more and more of our time discussing this matter of industrial disease. As we learn more, we are going to find out that more and more workers have suffered from one or another agent or chemical.

I hope the board will be prepared and able to move quickly, not only to compensate the individuals but also, as I said earlier, to protect the workers who still have to make a living, who still have to put bread on the table, who still have to go to the particular work place.

Mr. Lupusella: I would like to take this opportunity to clarify the record about the commercial regarding asbestos. I understand the

minister is extremely busy with his various activities.

If I recall correctly, when my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and I raised the issue about this specific commercial on asbestos being shown on a regular basis on television, we explained why it was very offensive. We felt there is an indirect implication that if the worker had known about the conditions under which he was working the consequences could have been prevented. This is why the commercial was offensive to us.

5:10 p.m.

The minister then undertook the task of reviewing the content of the text. He gave copies of the content me and to the member for Nickel Belt. The minister knew what we found offensive, based on the explanation given to him. There was an indirect implication that the worker was responsible for the consequences of asbestos because he did not know. There was no balance between the worker and the employer. I think the employer knew more about the dangerous aspect of asbestos. I think the board knew and I think even the Minister of Labour knew 10 or 15 years ago about the dangerous aspect of asbestos.

I can go through the content, the draft copy of the standing committee on resources development, to extract exactly what the minister told us. Using my memory again, if I recall, the minister did not ask the member for Nickel Belt or myself to give a revised composition of the text. Actually he had an opportunity to review the contents and he agreed with the implication my friend and I made at the time.

There was another commitment from the minister that he would get in touch with the Industrial Accident Prevention Association, Ontario to clarify the issue. After a week, I never saw that commercial any more on television. I said, "Good." I thought the minister had made progress and had stuck to the commitment given to us during the committee stage of deliberations about Bill 101.

Two or three days ago, I witnessed the same commercial without any change in the content of the text. That is the real story of that commercial and I do not think the minister really—and I can prove it—expected that my colleague and I would revise the content of the text per se. We are not experts. We do not know what kind of text should be used on TV, but the minister was well aware of the implication made about the worker without any clear balance about the employer and the others who for so many years have been aware of the dangerous aspects of the use of asbestos. This

should be clearly spelled out in the contents of the commercial per se.

I think the minister will have an opportunity to clarify the position further, but the reason I am standing now is to get involved on the principle of industrial disease. I want to compliment the member for Sudbury East. I am sure all members of this Legislature are quite aware of the cause my colleague has been pursuing for so many years. For 12 or 13 years, he has been fighting for that cause and for the victims of industrial disease across Ontario.

I do not want to forget, of course, with the greatest respect, our former leader of the New Democratic Party, Mr. Lewis. I think in the 1975 and 1977 elections, industrial disease prevention and improvements on behalf of victims were part of the political theme of the elections.

I do not think it is fair at this point to go back to a historical perspective of the situation, now that finally the government is recognizing there is a need to improve the environment and improve the life of the workers across Ontario in order that they will be protected from industrial diseases.

I want to compliment my colleague for the cause. I am sure he will be raising this issue again in the years to come. We as politicians can set no limit to this important aspect of the industrial revolution.

A few minutes ago someone mentioned we are faced with 3,000 new products being introduced on the market on a yearly basis. It is not only the workers manufacturing the product, it is all the citizens of Ontario who are exposed to these unknown products because we do not know their long-term effects.

The main point that should be directed to the government is prevention. We have raised this issue through the years and all the citizens of Ontario are well aware of the implications of these industrial diseases. I do not think the government made any specific improvements in the area.

I recall the workers at Elliot Lake. As a result of pressure from the leader of this party and individual members of parliament, the government came to realize there was a need to remove workers from environmental situations that were endangering their health. Did they get any relief as a result of such a process? I do not think so. I also remember that the injured workers in the Elliot Lake area were not able to get supplementary pensions because of the unwillingness of the board to grant such benefits.

Those workers were in a very tight situation. There were no jobs available. They could not

perform the same type of work because they would be exposed to these dangerous elements. At Elliot Lake we were talking about radiation from uranium. In the meantime, the board was pushing these injured workers to look for jobs elsewhere.

The member for Sudbury East, other members and the previous leader raised these issues on different occasions in the Legislature, but we were unable to get the government to specify new policies or new directions. We were unable to get the board to change its policies so that the workers affected by the problem would get the benefits. Did they get any pension as a result of that? The answer again is no. If the workers got pensions, they were so small that the workers got to the point of questioning their validity.

5:20 p.m.

There is need for reform in this area, no doubt about it. Professor Weiler enunciated the importance of such reform. I understand the minister is willing to move to phase 2 of the so-called reshaping of the Workers' Compensation Board dealing with the specific aspects of industrial disease. I want to state my pessimism based on the past records of the government and the board.

I do not think the new subclauses incorporated within subsection 1(5) are telling this Legislature what this panel is going to do. With the greatest respect, I do not want to make any innuendoes today, but I have my doubts about the whole process and what is going to happen in the future in relation to the issue of industrial disease.

The member for Nickel Belt raised this concern after attending the committee hearings. The standing committee on resources development in September debated the issue clause by clause and we emphasized that we needed clear guidelines to be spelled out within the act.

Everything should come under the direction of Bill 101. The government cannot empower an industrial disease panel to enunciate new policies and to have discretionary power to investigate things across the province. There is no clear indication of how long these people will sit on that panel. After developing certain expertise about industrial disease, their mandate will eventually finish and new people will sit on this panel. We will again be faced with a chaotic situation from which injured workers will not get any benefit.

The theme of the New Democratic Party has been prevention. The prevention aspect of the situation should prevail above any kind of panel that will be established to cover the industrial disease aspect within the principle of Bill 101. If

we read this subsection, I do not think any member of this Legislature will be impressed by the mandate this industrial disease panel is going to receive from Bill 101. We are going to be faced with discretionary power. When this law is enacted, the industrial disease panel, like a board of directors, will sit from time to time to establish policies.

We had ample opportunity in past years to find out how policies are working against the interest of injured workers across Ontario. I see nothing different, with the greatest respect, even though I realize the minister has good intentions about the mandate of this industrial disease panel and the wide range of activities it is going to develop, what it is going to investigate and what it is going to do in the years to come to make sure this field is going to give concrete benefits to injured workers across the province.

By using my imagination, I can see this panel going around, compiling investigations across Ontario or compiling material coming from different nationalities across the world. I do not think the main thread of their mandate will be the principle that prevention should be respected in Ontario, to make sure the citizens and workers of Ontario will get the benefits of being in good health and, in the final analysis, to make sure the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) will get some benefits to save money for more taxpayers and reinvest that money in the different spheres where it is required.

We are spending millions of dollars to treat a problem that the government has a clear responsibility to clean up. I made a specific reference to the 3,000 new products which on a yearly basis are sold on the market and not even tested to find out the long-range problems that human beings might develop from the use of such products.

We talk about prevention. Let us go back to the origin of the problem. Let us try to clean up the work place. Let us try to make employers more responsible. Let us try to introduce legislation in this province such that new products to be sold in the market must first be tested before reaching the table of a normal citizen in Ontario.

Health care must be a priority in this province. We cannot fool around on that issue. We need only goodwill from the government to enact the legislation, and employers and other people will have to comply with the principle of the new law to protect citizens across Ontario.

In theory, even the principle of the Workers' Compensation Act, when it was first enacted in 1913 and 1914, was good. I do not think anyone

in this parliament rejected the principle of compensation in 1913 and 1914.

Here we are developing new ways in which a principle is established within subsection 1(5), that an industrial disease panel should operate in Ontario. But the chaotic and disastrous aspect of that organization must be seen in the years to come before evaluating the process as a whole.

We have had an opportunity to review the activities of the board for many years. I am not very optimistic that this panel will stand up to the test of seeking prevention on a daily basis in the province and of making the health of the workers and of the citizens a high priority for the government. I understand where their friends are. They are employers across Ontario. We are usually accused of being against small business, against big employers, against corporations and so on.

Tell me, Mr. Chairman, what kind of money would you pay to live in good health in Ontario, to be protected from the environmental problems to which all citizens of this province are exposed daily? The question is to have a good political will to enact the legislation that will make sure the health of our people will be a priority in this province and that we will not be treated like items that, when they are no good, can go to funeral homes and finally to cemeteries while life continues and new babies continue to be born just to strike a balance in our society.

I do not view society in that way, with the greatest respect. I think we have an obligation to enact good legislation, in spite of the principles on which the New Democratic Party stands, who our friends are and who gives us donations to carry on our fight every four years or in minority situations every two years. Who knows? It is just a question of common sense and nothing else that leads us to the protection of the environment, of the workers and of the citizens across the province.

5:30 p.m.

I do not think subsection 1(5), with all the subclauses included, really spells out the mandate of this industrial disease panel. Of course, during the committee hearings the minister gave us the assurance that it has the power. It does not want any particular interference from the Minister of Labour, and even he has to play a careful role in deciding what undermines the health of workers in Ontario and therefore should be investigated, just to maintain the spirit of independence, just to make sure that the role of this panel is going to be open and without any political interference.

If we do not want political interference, let us clarify the issue on the floor of this Legislature. Let us spell out the panel's mandate. Let us make sure the actions which will be carried out by this panel will be clearly enunciated under different clauses of Bill 101. Then there will be no need for political interference. But we are operating in the dark. We have to raise questions in the future about the stability of this panel, about the effectiveness of this panel, to give them direction so they are able to cover the issues of the health of workers and the health of citizens, areas about which politicians are extremely concerned.

We are also faced with the delicate role of the minister, who must be extremely careful before getting in touch with this panel because we want to maintain the principle of independence. The discretionary power given to this panel must be a guide to develop and clarify their role. I think we are wrong. That is why in Ontario we are going to be faced with archaic laws.

Through the years we have enunciated good principles which no one can oppose, and then the boards, which have been created under the Tory regime, develop policies. Who can change the policies? We have to maintain the status of independence. We have to make sure the minister will not guide the panel and we have to make sure the politicians will not interfere with the process.

Our message during the hearings which took place over the past few years and in September when the committee was engaged in clause-by-clause discussion was very clear. Let us spell out the mandate of this industrial disease standards panel. I am sure in years to come my colleague the member for Sudbury East and other members of this Legislature will raise these problems all over again.

The minister might tell us Bill 101 is a good bill; it is an improvement of the system and injured workers will get good benefits from these changes. However, if we analyse the indirect implications coming from all the clauses contained in bill 101, as we did throughout the course of the standing committee on resources development, I become extremely concerned about the intention of the government in relation to all aspects of compensation and prevention.

The government feels pressure coming from employers that such an institution is becoming too costly. The system cannot afford to pay more money to make sure injured workers in Ontario will get what they deserve. They will be complaining in the future as well. If politicians or pressure groups push to reshape the principle of

the Worker's Compensation Board, the theme of money, dollars and cents will be raised by employers across Ontario because the system cannot afford to pay any more money. Then there will be a flow of statistical data, as we noticed throughout the course of the hearings. Actually, it is coming from—

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: I wondered if the chairman of the standing committee on resources development which dealt with this whole bill was leaving?

Mr. Barlow: I thought I would. When the filibuster is over, I will be back.

Mr. Laughren: Okay, thanks.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, I really resent this type of comment about how we feel about the bill. On behalf of our party and as a critic, I am giving the benefit of the doubt to the government about the principles enunciated in Bill 101.

I do not want to use my Latin motto. It is a general motto that history can teach us something. I think we have learned enough from past experience. The present Workers' Compensation Act has now been enunciated and activated by the board. As far as I am concerned, even though the principle might sound good, injured workers through the years have given a clear indication to the government that the system is unworkable. That is why we are here today.

That is why the government appointed Professor Weiler. It was not to satisfy injured workers protesting outside against injustices they have been faced with throughout the years, but I think there was a clear indication from the government, a sign of goodwill, that the system was archaic and there was a need for revamping and reshaping the system. That is why the government did it. To hear comments that we are trying to stop the process is unfair.

The member left, but I think I was supposed to rebut his remarks. I do not think his criticism was a fair and sound one.

Prevention is one thing. There is nothing in this particular subsection 1(5) which gives direction to the panel that it has to do that. It will have indefinite discretionary powers to investigate and compile material, but I think the material is already available. It is available to the doctors who have been deeply involved in this particular field of industrial disease. It is available at the Minister of Labour's library and it is also available to the board.

After years of studying and reviewing the issue, one can tackle all the carcinogen products which are on the market and the implications of asbestos. I think in the past we engaged ourselves

on the percentage of fibres that can be inhaled by workers and what percentage might constitute a danger to health.

We know where the problems are. We know the medical profession was able to spell out the problems. I think we have been faced with an unwillingness on the part of the government to take the right direction to prevent certain things from happening in Ontario.

Let me assure the minister that even though we do not know when the next provincial election is going to be called, the WCB and industrial disease will be one of our major themes in our political strategy because I think the citizens in this province and the workers themselves should have the right to know what the government is doing in relation to that.

One cannot just state that now that we have an industrial disease panel, it will look after future problems which might develop, and that if there is a specific interest coming from any politician or any interested group, the position taken by the minister will be that he will direct the inquiry through the industrial disease standards panel and it will investigate the concern.

5:40 p.m.

The panel will then go through the contents of the material that has been compiled. I do not really think it will develop new material. It will go where the sources are and give a satisfactory answer to the minister and to the workers. If there is an appeal, its decision or reply will eventually be the basis as to whether an injured worker wins or loses an appeal. That is unfair.

My mind is on the thousands of injured workers who have been suffering from industrial diseases since the inception of the Workers' Compensation Board who did not get compensation because the long-term effects of certain products were unknown. That is why we are quite offended by the commercial with the clear statement, "If the worker only knew."

Surely the worker did not know. The worker works to make a living as a result of the work he or she performs in Ontario. Of course, if the worker refuses, he is going to be laid off. Even if the worker knew, he would be faced with being laid off as a result of his refusal. Thousands of workers in Ontario have been faced with such dilemmas in making a living, having to do the work assigned by the employer or else the final prospect was to lose his or her job.

That is why the commercial is very offensive. I am quite surprised to know today that the Industrial Accident Prevention Association made a deliberation on the issue last night. I was of the

opinion that the issue was well clarified when the minister made his statement during the committee stage. I am sure I will have an opportunity to check the exact content of the minister's position.

Unless we are going to be faced with a clear indication that the government is willing to move forward in regard to the specific aspect of industrial diseases in Ontario, we may even waste our time in reiterating the same principles of what the government should do.

We have sometimes been accused as a party of being destructive by making specific arguments or criticisms in regard to specific issues affecting people in Ontario and of not being willing to co-operate in the passage of a particular law that is good in principle but where we do not know the final stage or final analysis of the law.

When we are able to make clear recommendations as to how the government should operate on certain issues, we are faced with a strong position of refusal and are told the system cannot afford it or the employers cannot afford to pay any more money. They use any kind of argument—the recession, the economic crisis, the recovery aspect of the situation—to make sure our objections and criticisms will be torn apart, instead of being taken into consideration and the government having an open mind about adopting the criticism as a guide in producing and enacting new law in Ontario.

If I recall correctly, it was around May or June when Bill 101 was referred to the standing committee on resources development for new hearings throughout the summer and for the final deliberation on sections, clause by clause. If I recall correctly, the minister told us on the floor of this Legislature that he would approach such a committee with an open mind. The only positive aspect of the minister's participation was his presence at the committee hearings. It was a sign of goodwill.

When I said the government should have an open mind in regard to the criticism raised by different members of the Legislature regarding the principle of revamping and reshaping the WCB, I interpreted the open-mind aspect to mean the minister would accept some of the amendments presented either by the NDP or by the Liberal Party in the course of our final deliberations. I did not see this open-minded acceptance of certain principles which the government was supposed to incorporate within Bill 101.

I understand we cannot make opening statements, but in the final analysis I foresee Bill 101

as being a very detrimental bill, but not on the principle of the bill or on the principle of each section affecting injured workers in Ontario. I see detrimental effects on the application of Bill 101 by the board's administration and enunciation of policies that eventually will be enacted when Bill 101 is passed by this Legislature.

This is where I lose faith in the system. I do not think the problems will clear up in the future. I think the minister has good intentions when it comes to listening. He is very patient in listening to our arguments. However, the political implications behind his positions are bothering politicians as well as people outside who are affected by this legislation.

Benefit of doubt is incorporated in a specific section of this bill. We will find out how this will be applied by the board through the years and how many injured workers win appeals on the premise of the benefit-of-doubt section.

I have reservations about the bill per se. I have reservations about the whole area of industrial disease. I am particularly concerned about people who are not working in a dangerous environment but are in contact with dangerous products. Even citizens of this province are not living in a safe environment. We blame the United States or Ontario Hydro for acid rain, pollution of the lakes, people eating contaminated fish and so on, but the government has undertaken to solve the problem.

5:50 p.m.

In 1985, it is said the acid rain or pollution problem will diminish because Ontario Hydro is going to reduce its emissions by a certain percentage. I do not know the figure.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It is 43 per cent.

Mr. Lupusella: I thank the minister. It will be reduced by 43 per cent by 1990.

In regard to pollution of the lakes and the life of the lakes per se, 300 lakes are already dead in Ontario. Are we expecting a natural disaster to destroy those lakes in Ontario, when we are polluting the environment and the government is not doing anything to make sure industries will stop polluting the lakes? This is the kind of reasonable approach the government should use to resolve the problems and protect the health of its citizens in Ontario. I see nothing like that.

Sometimes when the government is taking a strong position on what must be done, the employers or big corporations threaten, "If you do not give us more moderate guidelines, we are going to leave the province. We will move elsewhere. We will go to the United States, where we are not faced with particular restric-

tions on the environmental aspect of the situation."

In the meantime, we pay billions of dollars for our health care system in Ontario, which we say is the best system in the world, doctors would like to have a generous increase and so on.

Let us talk about prevention once and for all. We would save billions of dollars and we could direct those billions of dollars into different areas where our citizens could get benefits. Let us not play around with how many billions of dollars the board pays annually to injured workers to justify that the board is operating effectively in Ontario when we know for a fact that injured workers in the province are faced with daily injustices as a result of an inadequate act which has been in operation since 1913.

Why do we defend the system? The law is too old. The law needs changes. There is no need to justify the operation of the board, which spends billions of dollars on injured workers, when in fact for an amputated leg an injured worker does not receive as much from the board. Why? The injured worker is penalized for different reasons. At the time of the injury, he or she was performing a job that did not pay too much; because of that and the meat chart, the injured worker is faced with a small pension and the loss of a leg.

Now, within the new act, for fatal cases a lump sum of \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$60,000 is to be given to the survivor spouse of a deceased worker. The figures might sound attractive, but if we take the maximum that a surviving spouse receives under the present act and multiply it by 12 months on the range of 10 years, she or he will be receiving more than \$60,000. Here we are using parameters that limit the amount to \$20,000 up to a maximum of \$60,000. I am sure that in new fatal cases, widows are going to lose money as a result of the new law.

We will not have to wait long for new injured people to associate themselves with demonstrations in front of Queen's Park, and we are going to have an increased number of new injured workers, covered under Bill 101, protesting the inequity of the system. Then the board and its actuaries will come, as they came before the committee, talking about how much money that particular section will cost the employers and the board, saying that it will cost millions and perhaps billions of dollars and that the system cannot afford to pay that kind of money.

I do not question the goodwill of the minister; I know that in his heart he understands the problems of injured workers across Ontario. But,

turning to the case of a deceased worker without dependants, the new act proposes to finalize his or her case with a burial expense of \$1,500 to \$2,000 and with no money going to his or her parents, who have participated in the growth of that person.

I do not think the minister rejected such a premise because he does not have a good heart. I think there is a political motivation behind it. There is a principle which cannot be rejected, because the father or the mother should be compensated for the pain and suffering of the diseased child when a son or daughter has a fatal accident.

Am I accusing the minister or any member of the Conservative government of being cruel? No. It is the political implication. They are defending a system of people who are supporting their party and as a result of that some persons in our society have to suffer. I cannot accept such a premise. It is not appropriate in good legislation and good principles which must be passed by a responsible government.

Sometimes I resent certain arguments. Most of the time during the committee hearings the Conservative members did not have rational answers to our concerns and the points we raised on how the laws should be amended. There was no specific answer or reasonable explanation given by the government to justify the course of action contemplated by Bill 101.

We can use comments that have been made by my colleague the member for Nickel Belt when we were asking about the rationality of specific premises for certain clauses. When we asked why the government took that course and did not take our amendment into consideration, sometimes we were faced with irrational answers; they did not have any answers, only political deliberations and nothing else.

Certain aspects of Bill 101 and the present Workers' Compensation Act cannot stand in the light of religious arguments. I am sure Tory members are very religious. They cannot repudiate certain principles which are part of their own beliefs, but for political reasons they have to do so. It is not because they are bad or cruel or because they do not feel anything about the issue. They understand the reality of life, but for political reasons they cannot because the party or its policies must prevail.

Going back to the principle concerning industrial disease, I am very disappointed because aside from the ministerial statement to the standing committee on resources development, which sat during the summer, the government did not give

us a clear indication of how this panel will be governed. We got verbal assurances, but no legal or legislative assurances, on how the panel should be operated. Maybe I could move the adjournment of the debate.

The Deputy Chairman: No. Can we approve section 1 now?

Mr. Lupusella: No, Mr. Chairman, I want to talk.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Ramsay, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

ERRATUM

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No. 99

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, October 23, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 23, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Miss Stephenson moved second reading of Bill 119, An Act to amend the Education Act.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, because of the length of time that has elapsed since the first reading of this bill, I think it would be appropriate if I were to remind the honourable members of the content of the bill this evening.

Bill 119 consists of two distinct parts. Sections 1 to 16 are items of a housekeeping variety that have proved to be required as a result of policy and legislative initiatives within the province in the last several years. For example, sections 6 and 7 require a determination of trustees to be conducted at three-year intervals in order to make the Education Act consistent with and congruent with the Municipal Elections Act.

Of greater importance, however, are the remaining sections of the bill which relate, clearly and specifically, to French-language education. During comments on first reading of the bill in late June, I indicated that the ministry would proceed during the summer to develop draft legislation on the section related to governance of French-language schools and classes within the province.

I am pleased to tell the House that activity has proceeded according to schedule and progress has been made to the extent that we are right now in the midst of preparations to consult once again with all the affected school boards and the organizations involved within the francophone community and those other constituencies that are affected in the educational community about the concepts that underlie the initiatives related to governance of French-language schools. I remind the House, however, that the draft legislation that will result from this activity is not at this time a part of Bill 119.

Bill 119 in its present form ensures access to education in the French language for those who are eligible. It provides a means for resolving difficulties brought to the attention of the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario regarding the provision of French-language education, a mechanism that is absolutely essential in the current situation in a number of

areas where a prolonged period of time is required to find resolutions to a number of rather difficult issues.

It is my sincere hope that this House will see fit to support this bill in a way that will communicate to the people of Ontario the profound concern held by this Legislature for the wellbeing and progress of the French-speaking component of our community in this province.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, in the virtual absence of another party in this Legislature, I am quite happy to take on the role of the official opposition and look forward to the moment in the not too distant future when that will be a reality, if indeed we are not sitting on the other side and managing this legislation in place of the minister.

Regardless of those pious hopes, I want to say, first of all, that while we agree, generally speaking, that sections 1 to 16 inclusive deal principally with matters of a housekeeping nature, there is none the less one major issue this party would like at least to discuss and lay in that form before the Legislature.

We do not have a specific amendment to propose with respect to section 15, for example, which deals with the difficulties arising out of the default some municipalities are in from time to time with respect to transfer payments to school boards. That is a matter of some concern to many school boards around this province.

Interjection.

Mr. Allen: That is right. The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) will be following me in short order, Mr. Speaker. He has just arrived, but I shall proceed.

Numerous school boards in this province suffer considerably from the lapse in time that occurs when municipalities default with respect to the payment date they are obligated to meet. The amendment presented here allows a little bit of assistance in that respect. It transfers from the later side of a weekend to the earlier side of the weekend the date on which the transfer must be paid and it provides for the payment of a minimum interest rate with respect to the period in default.

I think many boards do have a very legitimate cause for grievance when one raises a second question in that connection. The municipalities

in question often raise the moneys intended for school board expenditures, for transfer to school boards, at dates considerably in advance of the statutory time for the transfer of those moneys.

They are then held with considerable interest accruing over the period of time prior to the transfer date and the school boards do not benefit in any respect from the accrual of those interest moneys. It would seem to me the concern the school boards have raised, that those interest moneys ought to be allotted, at least in some measure, for school purposes, is a reasonable objection and a problem we should attempt to meet.

It would be presumptuous at this time to offer an amendment without having engaged in the negotiations that necessarily should take place between boards, municipalities and the ministry with respect to that problem, but I do think it needs to be signalled as the next subject that needs to be addressed and one on which an amendment does need to be drafted for the act.

8:10 p.m.

I would say, parenthetically, that the municipalities perhaps are not the worst offenders in this respect. We are all quite aware that the ministry, in its transfer payments to school boards and other organizations to whom it transfers money from time to time, is often very seriously in arrears itself and abuses expected or legislated transfer dates.

The amounts we are talking about are rather substantial. A survey of a number of boards in this province indicates that in Grey county, for example, with 27 municipalities reporting, the school board loss under this provision was \$228,505.

The smallest was a case of seven municipalities reporting under the Wellington County Roman Catholic Separate School Board, and there the loss was approximately \$31,000. The largest board surveyed was that of the city of London, which lost a total of \$513,680. The Association of Large School Boards in Ontario estimates the losses overall to be somewhere in the order of \$32 million.

I reiterate that it seems to me to be an important subject for us to be looking at with respect to an amendment in the near future that would at least enable the school boards to benefit in some substantial measure from those interest moneys. I will simply leave it at that point and indicate that for the moment we are, however, prepared to support section 15, which deals with this matter, as it stands.

It would perhaps have been tempting under the provision that has to do with regularizing the OSSD, the Ontario secondary school diploma, to have engaged in a debate this House has yet to have on the whole structure and intent of the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions reform in the curriculum.

Mr. Bradley: Feel free to do so.

Mr. Allen: I would like to have that debate some time. I am not sure that this evening, while the member is waiting for his colleagues to come to support him, is the time to do it.

None the less, one does want to register the concern many of us have as members that some of the most important things that go on in this province in terms of regulation attached to statute reforms and alterations of programs, often much more far-reaching than most of the legislation we discuss in this House, never reach the floor of this Legislature for extended and full debate.

I think back to the introduction of the Hall-Dennis school reforms, for example, massive and sweeping in their philosophy and in their application to the school system, which I think would have been of substantial benefit had it been possible for us to have debated them here.

For example, in many of the curriculum implications in the Hall-Dennis program there was a notable lack of rigour and preparation for the many new courses that came on stream at that time. It would have benefited the Hall-Dennis program to have had the debate take place in this Legislature, and have some signalling of some of the problems that might have arisen from that debate communicated to the minister and to the schools that were to implement that program.

Likewise, it would have been wise, even to the point of necessity, for this House to have debated the OSIS reforms. Once more we have found a ministry that has moved rapidly forward with a program of change that has been extensive and fundamental in its theory and in its application.

We have seen the numerous problems that have attended its application: courses that are not ready at the date of implementation, teachers who are not particularly happy about the program itself and many of its implications and possible repercussions, and headmasters in this province opposing its implications right to the very end. There are a number of important issues that we might raise with respect to this simple question of legitimizing the diploma attached to that new program.

However, it seems to me that with reference to most of those housekeeping matters that lie in sections 1 to 15, with the exception of the items I

just mentioned, there is no reason to take exception; the proposals appear to be straightforward and there is no point in rehearsing them here.

The minister is quite correct in stating that it is from section 16 on that the real substance of the amendments proposed here lies. Those sections, of course, deal with the whole question of the extension of French education rights in Ontario, and I think it is important to observe at the outset that, while this does not move in any direction into the whole area of French schools governance, which we would like to be discussing at this time, we look forward to receiving those amendments in the near future and we hope the ministry will indeed be able to reconcile the many problems that hover at present around the proposition that the ministry itself has put forward on this subject.

Il faut dire, au sujet de ces amendements à la législation éducative pour l'Ontario, que c'est important que nous discussions rigoureusement tous les sujets qui appartiennent aux droits franco-ontariens en Ontario. Ces amendements aux articles 16 à 27 comprennent plusieurs amendements au sujet du transport des étudiants francophones, mais particulièrement et plus fondamentalement, aux droits de ces élèves franco-ontariens à une éducation dans leur propre langue dans une école peut-être dans la juridiction dans laquelle ces étudiants francophones demeurent.

Si une école française n'existe pas dans leur juridiction, le conseil scolaire devrait assurer les arrangements pour leur transport, pour leur éducation et pour tous les services nécessaires pour compléter leur éducation en français. Ce sont des droits fondamentaux, et c'est nécessaire que nous votions affirmativement à ce sujet à la base de cette pièce de législation, le projet de loi 119.

In case we do not all have a clear memory of the section of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms in which those rights are proclaimed and to which we are now according the legislation in Ontario, may I read for the benefit of the Legislature subsection 23(1):

"Citizens of Canada (a) whose first language learned and still understood is that of the English or French linguistic minority population of the province in which they reside, or (b) who have received their primary school instruction in Canada in English or French and reside in a province where the language in which they received that instruction is the language of the English or French linguistic minority population of the province, have the right to have their

children receive primary and secondary school instruction in that language in that province."

It goes on to amplify and apply that in the subsequent paragraphs.

8:20 p.m.

That is the basic right of which we are speaking. I think the ministry is to be complimented not just for meeting the terms of that provision, but also for even going beyond it in terms of the application envisaged in the charter, that the ministry should at this time be proposing that numbers should be irrelevant, that if in Ontario one is a child of a Franco-Ontarian family, one has a right to education in French.

That is surely the most generous proposition one can entertain with respect to this subject. I think it augurs well. I hope it augurs well for the French schools governance propositions that are coming forward that such a generous provision has been made in this respect.

Naturally, having taken the stand it has with respect to Franco-Ontarian rights for so long, having taken the position it has for maximum French schools governance rights as well and looking forward to the legislation we shall be receiving, this party is happy to endorse the proposals that lie here under their several headings. I do, however, want to flag one aspect of sections 17 and 19, for I think perhaps one might look at a little further extension of the principles that are embodied there, particularly with respect to transportation rights.

I call the attention of the minister to the fact that there are some communities in which, as we know, the French-language instructional unit serves a very large area within its school jurisdiction. While it is adequate to have the transportation arrangements spelled out in sections 17 and 19 with respect to the students who avail themselves of the French-language instructional unit from another board, and by virtue of that service being purchased by another board, none the less there is a certain unfairness in some communities.

Among them is my own community, where students travelling within the school board jurisdiction itself, by virtue of the location of the school and the fact that it serves the whole board region, unlike most other schools, have to travel very significant distances and take long periods of time to get to school. For example, with regard to Georges P Vanier Ecole Secondaire in Hamilton, students who live in Stoney Creek and in the east end of Hamilton have to travel up to two hours, and sometimes more, going to and returning from their school.

Fortunately, that extremity has been handled by a Wentworth county bus service that now transports those children, but in the west end of the city there are still many students who must rely on the public transportation system, who have to go through several transfers and who take something in the order of an hour and a quarter to an hour and a half to travel to school and then to return.

That is a long part of a school day to spend simply in transit and it necessarily must impact upon the time available for studies or for alternative activities that students, like all other persons, have as part of their daily agendas. We shall, therefore, be moving an amendment to provide for students who find themselves in that location inside the jurisdiction that offers the French-language instructional unit.

With respect to the application of the charter in this regard, I expect the minister will not be long in bringing forward a good many other amendments to this act which will give expression to other sections of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. I think particularly of the equality rights in subsections 15(1) and (2), in which not only this statute but many others in the province will undoubtedly have to find themselves in conformity as of April 1985.

It will be required that all discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex, age or mental or physical disability will have to be accommodated. That will mean the harmonizing of a good deal of legislation, not least of all the requirement in this section that makes it mandatory for boards to provide the transportation described here. Certain other groups of pupils, among them the handicapped, retarded or otherwise, will have an equal claim under section 166 of the act, not just to the permissive nature of that section for transportation facilities from a board, but also to mandatory services.

Sections 17 and 19 anticipate some further changes we will expect from the minister with regard to educational legislation and the services provided to students.

I do not wish to linger upon sections 18, 19 or any of the subsequent matters except to say it is a matter of considerable importance that the chairman of a French-language advisory committee have the power to sit not just on the committee's other board, but also on the committee of the whole board. Since I understand this was intended in the first place, this simply brings that original intention into full clarity of application,

so that no school boards may be confused about what it means.

I will repeat we do look forward to the elimination of the French-language advisory committees and their supplanting by a much more substantial and full authority to the representatives of the French-language communities across Ontario in the selection of their own educational authorities.

Likewise, with respect to the alterations of appeal from those committees, it is important they have the fullest access to the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario and to the ear of the minister with respect to points on which they disagree with the school boards of their communities.

There is no point in rehearsing cases, but I think the point is obvious in as much as they are the representative units; inadequate as they would admit to being under the present regime, they are none the less the units in the educational structure of this province that represent local French communities and the education rights to which they aspire for their children.

Therefore, it is important they have full access, not just to the Language of Instruction Commission of Ontario, but that the commission in turn have the proper access to the minister for the resolution of those disputes. This section does at least clarify that in substantial measure and strengthens their hand somewhat.

As to the final elements of the bill, they represent the officialese that terminates all of our bills. They need no comment.

I am happy to terminate my discussion with these remarks and to say that in general we do support the amendments before us. We look forward to the minister addressing some of the remaining problems under one of the headings, namely, section 15. We look forward to the introduction on another occasion of an amendment to the transportation provisions in sections 17 and 19. We also look forward to the introduction by the minister of further legislation dealing with the French schools governance question.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to participate in this debate. I was listening on what we call a squawk box. It must have been in another honourable member's office because it could not have been in my office.

8:30 p.m.

I was listening with a good deal of interest to my friend the member for Hamilton West who was fantasizing about representing the official

opposition in the House. I like to allow him that opportunity to fantasize for just a moment because he knows we aim not for the official opposition position, but for the other side. The minister shakes in her boots across there as she knows we aim at that.

Many of the bills that come before this House are considered or labelled to be of a housekeeping nature. I suggest many of the sections of this bill are of a housekeeping nature, but there are some provisions that have caused some concern to certain groups that represent a significant section of the educational community in the province.

First of all, I want to associate myself with the comments of the member for Hamilton West commending the Minister of Education and her government on the progress which has been made in terms of French-language education in this province, particularly within the last year. It is unfortunate in many cases that there are those who are very critical of our effort in Ontario—not those of us in the opposition, whose job is to be critical from time to time. I talk to my good friends in Quebec often and they are not aware of some of the progress that has been made in Ontario. This is particularly true in terms of the provisions to a certain extent in this bill, but also that forthcoming in future legislation as progress is made in French-language education.

I think people across Canada look to this particular government with a good deal of satisfaction as to some of the progress which has been made. It may not be what everyone wants to see, but in terms of education, this province has been quite progressive, certainly in very recent years, at providing French-language education to francophones in this province.

Mr. Nixon: Brian Mulroney is not satisfied.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He is satisfied about education.

Mr. Bradley: There are those at the federal level who would like to see things done in a different way. The minister appropriately points out that in the field of education we are in a somewhat advanced position. We have removed the references to “where numbers warrant” through her legislation. Some would suggest this was prompted by court cases; others would suggest it was prompted by the goodwill of the minister and others in the cabinet and in the government in moving towards providing for all francophones in this province a French-language education and doing so at some considerable sacrifice in cost to others, but recognizing the benefit for our nation as a whole.

We have moved to a position, rather rapidly in recent years, where far more people have accepted the kind of proposals that the government has made for French-language education. I would suggest to the House they may not have been accepted even five years ago. There is a lot of goodwill there. Yes, there was the Quebec referendum and I think the focus on the question of secession on the part of certain people within Quebec has probably brought the issue to a focus more than it might have been otherwise.

It has probably brought it to more of the forefront in this province. I would suggest there has been a lot of goodwill out there in any case and we have made a lot of progress over the years in attitudes towards the use of both official languages in this country, particularly through the education system.

The minister would know that when we talk about re-educating civil servants who are 55 years old in the French language, there is some resistance to that. I do not like the terminology of shoving of one language, depending on where one is in the country, down the throats of another. It raises an unfortunate connotation.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Everybody agrees about that.

Mr. Bradley: I think the minister is correct there, but we suggest to people across our country, almost regardless of what their opinion happens to be on that issue, that through the education system we can provide an opportunity—I recognize this bill is not dealing with that—for English-language students to acquire skills in French. Even those who have been resistant to bilingualism and biculturalism have recognized the wave of the future and are pleased to see their own sons and daughters involved in a program of this kind.

I think there is sufficient goodwill to recognize that even among the francophone community in this province, those who have been denied that opportunity in past years because of lack of numbers, there is a good deal of sympathy towards providing French-language education to those people completely in the French language in all the subjects countenanced through the policies of the government and eventually through legislation.

I want to express certain concerns that have been brought to my attention by important groups in the province. There is the concern that the Minister of Education has not responded to letters and representations directed to her by the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario.

It has expressed concern about three aspects of this bill.

According to my information, the minister has not responded to the correspondence from that important group. I am not suggesting it is the only group in this province that is to be listened to concerning legislation. However, it represents a significant number of persons through the boards of education, which are the large school boards. I am disappointed the minister or one of her officials has not been able to reply to the representations.

One of the reasons we are going to recommend that we have a short session in committee, I hope with the acquiescence of the minister—I am not suggesting a long dragged-out session—is that groups such as the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario may get their viewpoints across and get a response from the minister in committee in the amicable way for which she is noted when groups come before committee.

They are concerned about specific areas. They require some clarification of the section dealing with sick leave credits to ensure that a part-time teacher is not entitled to the same sick leave credits as a full-time teacher. There is some wording that concerns them.

They have looked at the people who have accepted half-time positions—the minister will understand this—but are full-time teachers who are either coming back into the system or have decided to accept half-time assignments. They would have certain privileges and rights. The Association of Large School Boards in Ontario is concerned that those rights, through the wording of this legislation, might be extended strictly to part-time teachers. They want some clarification of that. I am sure they will get it when they make their representations to the committee and the minister is able to reply in full.

They are also looking for a re-examination of what they consider to be the larger and more important issue, the municipal taxes that are forwarded to school boards as they are collected. I know the Speaker is tolerant enough on a Tuesday evening to entertain a slight diversion from the principle of the bill to allow a member of the opposition to touch on the issue of what we consider to be lack of adequate funding of the education system at the local level in Ontario.

One of the reasons—this is how I will tie it in, Mr. Speaker—the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario is so concerned about the time limit and the time frame for municipalities to provide the funds—they transfer the funds to the

boards of education—is that they do not think they are getting enough money.

They might feel the local municipalities are following the lead of the Minister of Education, who has been reluctant to provide money to the local boards of education at the time they wish to have that money transferred, that is, early in the year. Some of them that have been able to accumulate a little surplus by various means on which to collect some interest, or those that cannot but have at least avoided the necessity of borrowing, have found themselves in dire straits because the Minister of Education will not transfer funds to them to the degree that has been the case in the past. She will recognize that she has received representations from various boards of education in that regard. I am sure that is why the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario has expressed concern.

8:40 p.m.

I note they say that section 215 of the act deals with the transfer of payments from the municipalities to school boards and that the proposed changes reinforce the schedule of dates when transfers must be made and provide an interpretation of the words “bank account.”

Concern has been raised among those groups, and by many school boards in Ontario, that this proposed amendment does not deal with the larger and more important issue that municipal taxes should be forwarded as they are collected and that there should be penalties for late payments.

Those groups were concerned that the municipalities—I was a member of a municipal council at one time, although I would not be able to speak on this issue because I would have a conflict of interest—did not forward those moneys to the boards of education at the time they would have liked to receive them.

I suggest the municipalities are simply copying the Minister of Education, who has been reluctant to release those deserved funds at the time of the year when they should have been forthcoming. I know the minister would agree with me, despite her interventions tonight.

I want to say that much of this concern could be alleviated if the minister were to return to the policy of the province providing, as it did in 1975, 61.3 per cent on average of the cost of education across Ontario, as compared to about 48.5 per cent in 1983. The province was much more popular then.

The minister has often reprimanded me for saying this by asking, “Would you allow 61.3 per cent as an uncapped figure?” Realistically, if one

wanted to be responsible, one would recognize that it would not be an uncapped figure. It would have to be a negotiated and reasonably agreed-on figure.

We would like to see a movement back in that direction, as I know you would like to see, Mr. Speaker, as the member for Peterborough as well as Speaker, so you could go back to your board of education and say that our Minister of Education has their needs and the needs of the local taxpayers at heart, not only in this bill but also in the trend she would like to set in the future.

If she were to seek the leadership of one of the parties in this House, she would certainly have the power, although she has considerable power now, to initiate that kind of action. We wish her well in her entertainment of the possibility of seeking that leadership. I would be prepared to send a significant contribution to the minister if she were prepared to entertain the possibility of entering that campaign.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: My friend should send it to his local university.

Mr. Bradley: The minister makes a good point when she says to send it to my local university. You will recognize, Mr. Speaker, that Trent University in your riding, Brock University in my riding and McMaster University in the riding of the member for Hamilton West are all in need of considerably more provincial funding. We all agree on that.

I would like to see the Minister of Education place her views before the public because, as she has stated, whether or not one agrees with her, one tends to know where she stands sometimes on these issues. She does not often back down, even when she is wrong, which in the view of the opposition is much of the time.

I want to go to a third part of the bill, only to say to the minister that to facilitate the needs of French-language students is an important aspect and that we will see more of that, as the member for Hamilton West has pointed out, in further legislation.

Concern has been expressed on the specific provision of section 17 of the bill. That section proposes a new section 258 to the act, dealing with the transportation and lodging of French-speaking students attending an instructional unit more than 24 kilometres from their residence.

Concern has been expressed about the lack of clarity and the lack of flexibility in the proposed new section. The concern does not centre on whether the pupils have the rights to such transportation—certainly they have and should have—but rather on how such transportation

should be provided. I know when they make their representations to the committee, the minister will have all the answers that will satisfy that group.

I want to jump back to the previous section and read into the record a letter the Minister of Education has received from Mary Hill, who is the new president of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation. The letter is dated October 23, 1984, and it reads:

"Dear Madam Minister:

"I would like to take the opportunity to express on behalf of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation some concerns related to Bill 119, An Act to amend the Education Act.

"It has come to our attention that section 15 of the bill does not deal fairly with the issue of municipal transfer payments to school boards. We support the position of the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario that it is not sufficient to require municipalities to transfer moneys allocated to school boards by the quarterly dates set by subsection 215(2) of the act. If moneys have been collected prior to the quarterly dates, then it should be the school boards that benefit from the interest accrued from their portion thereof.

"While we recognize that subsection 215(3) allows school boards and municipalities to negotiate alternative payment arrangements, the fact that so few alternative arrangements exist would indicate that this provision does not guarantee adequate protection to the school boards.

"We would also like to express concern about subsection 215(2) of the act, which requires a municipality in default of a payment to a board to pay interest at the minimum lending rate of the majority of chartered banks on the day of default. We would suggest that it would be more appropriate to require the municipality in default to pay at a rate of interest equal to that charged by the bank which services the board in question.

"We trust that you shall take these concerns into serious consideration when Bill 119 is debated during second reading, and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter."

This was signed by Mary Hill, the president of OPSTF, and it was a letter to the Minister of Education.

I am going to suggest again that not only boards of education are concerned about the transfer payments; municipalities are also concerned. The reason municipalities tend to hoard this money as long as they can is that they are having a hard time squeezing any more money

out of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), who wants to practise restraint on the backs of municipalities such as Peterborough, St. Catharines and the regional municipality of Niagara.

One therefore can understand, though not necessarily agree with, the reluctance of municipalities to transfer to boards of education the amount of the funds necessary and within the appropriate time frames.

Those are a few comments I have on this bill. If I can digress for just a moment, I hope goodwill will prevail on this whole question. I do not wish the minister ill in some things in government. I think a lot of people feel that those of us in opposition hope everything will go wrong for the government and that we can exploit it for political purposes.

There is no question that when things do go wrong, it is our responsibility to look for the weaknesses that might exist over there, to exploit them and to demonstrate to the public where the government is weak. But none of us, I think, wishes the minister or the government ill in its implementation of French-language education in this province. We hope that through conciliation and through goodwill on all sides we can find a method of governance that will eventually be acceptable to all.

It is a touchy question. The minister recognizes that; the member for Hamilton West and I recognize it. The member for Hamilton West has certainly spoken at some length on this—at greater length than I have, as a matter of fact—both in estimates and on other occasions. We wish the minister very well in that regard.

If I may get a plug in at this time, the member for Hamilton West and I were chatting in the hallway about this. The minister or the Premier (Mr. Davis)—I cannot recall which—has heard me get up in the House and ask a question about the possibility of striking a select committee on education to deal with education matters.

As the member for Hamilton West and I chatted in the hallway, we talked about the fact that this year—and I mean not necessarily 1984 itself but 1983-84, though I guess 1984 mostly—has been a year that has demonstrated the real need for a select committee on education to deal with education issues.

We have had so many things that have been dropped as bombshells in the Legislature. I am not blaming the minister for all these. The Premier sat down beside her, and I think she had information perhaps 10 minutes beforehand on

the separate school question, for instance. That is one example.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Five years.

Mr. Bradley: The minister did not get it five years before; I think she got it five minutes before. I doubt that the minister knew more than five minutes before—or at least even a day before—what the actual provisions were going to be.

8:50 p.m.

What I am trying to indicate to the minister is that with the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions document, with the separate school funding issue, with computers in education and with French-language education, how nice it would have been for members of the Legislature to have travelled to Wawa, Kapuskasing, Niagara Falls, Carleton and various other places in this province to hear the viewpoints of various groups that could point out the eventual pitfalls or strengths of the legislation brought forward.

What we are seeing this year in education again demonstrates the need for a select committee on education to deal with these matters. I know that with legislative committees the partisanship is still there, but such a select committee would have people who are genuinely interested in education, not people who are coming in to do their constituency work or to read the paper as happens in other committees because they have to be manned or womanned—

Mr. Nixon: Personned.

Mr. Bradley: Personned is a better word. Because there are members on that side and on this side who have a specific interest in education, I suggest to the minister they would be interested in hearing viewpoints on these issues from all across Ontario. I am not suggesting the divisions would not be there, but she would find a little more of a consensus on education issues if we could get together as a committee and make recommendations.

Because there are so many important matters related to education, it could be helpful to the minister if we had such a committee. I hope that when the new leader is chosen—if it is the minister herself if she decides to enter the race—she will see fit to present to the cabinet and her colleagues a proposal for a select committee on education, not to go to Hawaii to listen at Hawaiian music, nice as that might be, but to stay in Ontario—

Mr. Conway: The minister knows the trans-Atlantic routes pretty well.

Mr. Bradley: I am not suggesting that we go to Bahrain or to any of the other Middle East countries where the minister picked up some kind of bug. My friend the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) says the minister had some kind of affliction that came from there.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is a pity the member is so misinformed.

Mr. Bradley: I am relying for this information on my friend the member for Renfrew North.

Mr. Conway: It is better to be misinformed than disinformed by the Minister of Education.

Mr. Bradley: I am digressing, and the Speaker is most tolerant of my digression, as he always kindly is, on second reading at least.

I want to indicate our general support for the provisions of this largely housekeeping legislation, but with some important revisions. I want to indicate our support for having this go to committee, not for prolonged hearings but for input from those in the outside world who have not had the reply they had hoped to have from the minister.

I hope that the Legislature will approve this and that we can have, as they say in politics, a full and frank discussion. I do not know whether other members of the House have any comments on this. My learned friend, the former Education critic and former director of education in Kitchener, might want to add a little to this because he is even more immersed in education than most of us.

I would like to bring my remarks to an end with the few comments I have made and by thanking the member for Hamilton West for filling in for me when a dental dinner prevented an eight o'clock response.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I want to speak briefly on this bill—

Mr. Bradley: En français, George.

Mr. Samis: Are the lights on again?

I come from a riding where almost half the constituents are of French-Canadian origin and one third use the French language in their households. This bill has a certain significance to them. Even if those constituents spend their entire lives in the riding, even if they never have to avail themselves of the benefits of this bill, it has an important effect on them psychologically.

It gives them a greater sense of security as to their cultural belonging in this province. Ten or 15 years ago, perhaps even five or seven years ago, they did not have that sense of security. But by having something in the law of Ontario, I must say that for a minority it gives an added sense of

security. Whether one deals with the rights of the francophone going before the courts of the province, whether one deals with the hospital board or whether one is dealing with the school board, the most important thing one can have when one is in the minority is a law to protect those rights.

If one looks at the history of francophones in Ontario, and outside of central Canada, that has been the essential problem of francophones: they have not had laws to protect them.

Fortunately, in the last 10 or 15 years we have seen significant changes. In New Brunswick, the Hatfield government and the Robichaud government have made tremendous changes to ensure the rights, the survival and the future of the Acadian culture in that province.

If one looks back in the history of Quebec, those rights were guaranteed 117 years ago, and the English minority thrived and prospered until the advent of the separatist government in Quebec.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the minister for the initiative that is contained in this bill. It is a significant advance. It is even a historic advance in the ongoing battle for francophones to achieve that legal protection they have sought for so long.

The one thing I would say is missing in the whole process is the formal recognition by the government of Ontario of the existence of French as a language in this province. We have made tremendous advances in different phases, but we still not have put the roof on the house to say that there are now two official languages in this province and that we recognize the existence of two official languages.

In effect, this bill further recognizes the existence of the French language in education. Some of the legislation introduced by the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) does the same in the courts, but the one thing missing is that recognition from the government, from the Premier, that there are two official languages.

The former Prime Minister of Canada very eloquently urged the Premier to take that final step. The present Prime Minister of Canada has urged the Premier to take that step. My only hope, in the context of the remarks of my colleague the member for St. Catharines, is that if the minister decides to contest the leadership and she happens to be successful in that pursuit, she would accept and implement the advice and the request of the leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, the Prime Minister.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, given the fact that I have been specifically invited to so participate, I can hardly resist it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member's services have been volunteered.

Mr. Sweeney: Volunteered is probably more like it, Mr. Speaker.

I want to direct my remarks specifically to sections 17 through 25, which deal with the changes to French-language instruction. First of all, I wish to corroborate the comments made by my colleague the member for St. Catharines by indicating to the minister that we heartily approve of and support these changes.

I am reminded of the fact that last June, and the minister is probably more familiar with it than I am, there was a court ruling which said the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms very clearly indicated that the French-speaking students of this province had a right to—not collective but individual—French-language instruction. It is my sense, and again I stand to be corrected if I am wrong, that the sections of the legislation we have before us tonight reflect that court ruling.

The minister will be well aware that another piece of legislation was brought before us earlier which was to have done this very thing. It was withheld. It is my understanding that it was withheld because that court ruling was pending. We have now confirmed the individual rights of French-speaking pupils in this province to receive a French-language education regardless of numbers. "Where numbers warrant" is no longer a consideration, at least as I read the legislation.

9 p.m.

I am raising a question here of the minister. I notice the section with respect to the teaching of English not as a language of instruction but as a subject of instruction is mentioned in two different ways: one is under subsection 258(5) as amended in the bill, which provides English as a subject of instruction as a "may," then later in section 21 of the bill, the "shall" requirement in section 271 of the act is eliminated.

I would appreciate the minister explaining in just a little more detail how those two sections dovetail. As I understand it, and it is just my interpretation, the previous requirement for a "must" has been eliminated and the "may" has replaced it.

I would also raise a second question, and I want it to be clearly understood this is not a criticism, it is simply a question. It would be my understanding that a number of regular bus routes

in Ontario would be in excess of 24 kilometres. I am really curious about how the minister and the ministry arrived at 24 kilometres as the figure at which a school board would be required to provide room and board for a student.

I just do not understand that. I can understand it being a requirement at some level, but given the fact that other school routes in this province are in excess of that, the figure of 24 seems to be rather minimal. If there is another reason for it, I would appreciate being informed of it.

The third point I would like to raise under this general heading is a recognition of the admission of pupils who are not French-speaking to a French-language instructional unit. That is something I heartily support. I would like some further explanation from the minister about what is meant by "admissions committee." I am looking at page 6 of the bill under section 6(a), which says, "if the admission is approved by majority vote of an admissions committee." That seems pretty straightforward, but if there is something else involved that I am not seeing, I would appreciate the minister explaining that to me.

I particularly noticed the sections of the legislation—we are dealing with sections 24 and 25 here now—that point out the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario may recommend to a school board a certain line of action. If I continue to follow it, however, it appears the school board may choose to accept or not accept that recommendation.

Then it goes on and, as I read it, the new section provides the minister with the opportunity to receive from the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario a further recommendation if the school board's report is negative. It would appear that the minister now has the final say. Once again I am asking that the minister explain whether my interpretation is correct. That would appear to be the case.

Generally speaking, I want to indicate to the minister these changes are appropriate and acceptable and the ministry and the government are to be congratulated for bringing them forward. The questions I have raised are simply for interpretation and understanding and in no way are intended to be criticisms.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to some of the questions and comments that have been made by the honourable members opposite. I am also delighted to know they are generally supportive of the direction we are taking in these amendments to the Education Act.

The member for Hamilton West has suggested the matters related to the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines and the Ontario secondary school graduation diploma are matters about which there will be no opportunity for discussion. I would remind the members that estimates will be coming forward and there will be a great deal of opportunity to discuss those initiatives in that forum.

In addition to that, as a result of the wide-ranging consultation that led to the report known as the secondary education review project and then to the document known as Renewal of Secondary Education, which eventually became the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions document, all of which has occurred over a period of about five and a half years, with very broad consultation and a good deal of sharing of the information with the members of the House, who were at liberty at any time to respond to any of the documentation that is provided, there will be necessitated as a result of the new directions some amendments to the Education Act which must come forward.

I would judge that in the spring, therefore, we will be coming forth with further amendments to the Education Act based upon the requirements of OSIS for the secondary school program and the secondary school graduation diploma.

There is no doubt the members opposite have been suggesting for some time we need a select committee. That is an interesting and intriguing concept. I do hope it is offered in the light of the possibility of some less than partisan discussion about a very important area of activity within Ontario. I hope it is not simply being offered as a suggestion for yet another travel club for members of the Legislature. From time to time, one worries that select committees seem to degenerate into that kind of activity or do not keep themselves elevated in the area of the thoughtful examination of policy, which is obviously essential.

Mr. Conway: Remember the tile drainage committee, about which it was said they drained the province.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes. I am happy to report to the member opposite the tile drainage committee had disbanded by the time he and I arrived in the Legislature, I believe. All we heard was its history, but there have been others.

Mr. Nixon: It was not nearly so bad as the company law committee.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The minister has the floor.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I believe there was one called the select committee on company law which, to my understanding, travelled hither, thither, yon and otherwise. It was a very useful committee, there is no doubt about that, but it went on forever.

Mr. Conway: Be careful or I will tell the Ontario Law Reform Commission.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: By all means, tell the law reform commission.

Mr. Bradley: Look who was the chairman of that committee and look what he learned.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, as a matter of fact, the law reform commission has a new chairman who was the chairman of the select committee on company law.

None the less, it is an interesting suggestion which obviously should be looked at from time to time.

The member for Hamilton West has asked about sections 17 and 19 of the bill which provide for what we felt was the most important aspect of this piece of legislation; that is, a guarantee for both francophone students and, I would remind the members, for anglophone students in areas of the province which are predominantly French, of instruction and education in their mother tongue, in the language of their parents, without the overriding qualification of the words "where numbers warrant."

We think that provides the kind of support and initiative the francophones and the anglophones in some parts of this province require in order to ensure they are secure in their future, in their culture and in their language.

9:10 p.m.

In the Ministry of Education we have felt very strongly that this is the primary focus of this bill and that the amendments to the Education Act should be directed towards implementing that focus in the most appropriate fashion. That is why we have moved beyond the usual kind of philosophy of the ministry related to transportation.

We have moved in the direction of attempting to guarantee that, where a board has one or two children who require French-language education or English-language education and that group of children is so small that it would be inappropriate or impossible for that board to provide the education program itself, there would be a mechanism that would allow the board to ensure that those children were served appropriately in the appropriate language of instruction.

As we have done before in other areas of the province, we have gone to the stage of suggesting that where the distance to be travelled by these children is excessive, the school board will be responsible for the maintenance of those children in the other community during the school week. That is already in place, as members know, particularly for children in very remote parts of northern Ontario. I believe those children have been served very well in terms of the provision, particularly of secondary school education.

However, it is also suggested strongly that in more urban or suburban areas where the distances are not so great, the children should have access to that kind of program in a neighbouring board, and there be means of transportation provided which would ensure that those children would indeed be able to attend the classes which are arranged by the board.

We do not usually intrude in this manner in the area of transportation. Transportation is still a matter which is left primarily to the discretion of the local board of education or school board in order that it can arrange its affairs most appropriately. We felt it important in this piece of legislation to ensure that the availability of that educational program in the appropriate language of instruction be enhanced, in fact guaranteed, by ensuring that transportation or room and board would be provided.

I am hesitant to suggest we should go further than that at this point. I would like to try this first to see how it works before we suggest to boards of education that we must invade their territory in terms of the transportation policy within their own borders.

In most instances, they are doing pretty well. There are one or two instances in which it has been a problem, but the solution is also provided within this piece of legislation. That is the recommendation of the Languages of Instruction Commission of Ontario, which has been brought to bear on those circumstances in one or two areas of the province, but which could not be finalized because the Languages of Instruction Commission is empowered only to provide recommendations.

I would like to remind the member for Hamilton West that the French-language advisory committees will not disappear in Ontario. In those areas in the province in which the numbers of francophone students are relatively small compared to the total population served by a school board, and where guaranteed representation perhaps is not a viable alternative within the school board, it will be absolutely necessary to

have a French-language advisory committee, or an English-language advisory committee as the case may be, in order to ensure that the other language group's education interests are served appropriately by that school board.

Therefore, I would suggest strongly it is imperative that this section of the act—which ensures that the chairman of the French-language advisory committee or the English-language advisory committee is in fact capable of attending all committees of the board, including committees of the whole—be included within this act.

I would hope the member would support it on the basis that at this point we are unlikely to suggest to anyone, nor do I think he would suggest, that the language advisory committees in Ontario be eliminated completely.

Both the member for Hamilton West, and the member for St. Catharines mentioned specifically the communication from the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario. The member for St. Catharines mentioned the communication which arrived today from the first woman president of the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation—a landmark decision by that august body of predominantly male teachers.

Mr. Sweeney: We are waiting for a male president of the Federation of Women Teachers' Associations of Ontario.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do not hold your breath.

Mr. Conway: Are you being sexist?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I am not being sexist. I am being realistic. I am being adulatory because OPSTF has done very well in bringing Mary Hill along as their president. Even though she is without any doubt a confirmed and convinced Liberal, she will serve the association very well.

Mr. Conway: Listen, it was once nearly good enough for you, so let she who is without sin cast the first stone.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member keeps dreaming. I do wish he would do something about these small fantasies he has while he is sitting in the House as well, fed, as I know they are, by interesting little bits of information from the former leader of his party which are not entirely soundly based in fact.

None the less, the communication from the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario and from the Ontario Public School Teachers' Federation related specifically to section 15 regarding the transfer of funds from municipali-

ties to school boards. I would remind members there is great variation in the way the municipalities in the province collect their local property taxes.

I am aware that in some parts of the province the tax bills go out once a year at the end of the year and it would be extremely difficult for some of those municipalities to provide funds on a more frequent basis than quarterly. They are already required to do it quarterly, but there is a provision to ensure that, if an arrangement is made otherwise whereby taxes may be collected six or eight times a year, there must be agreements between the board and the municipality about the appropriate transfer at the appropriate time.

All we are trying to do here is to make sure that when this money is to be transferred, it is transferred on time and not left in default to the benefit of the municipality and to the detriment of the school board. We have said very clearly that because it has to be transferred quarterly, it must be transferred before noon on the day it is to be transferred, which is a Friday; and this ensures, of course, that the school board then acquires the benefit of the interest when it is transferred into the bank account as soon as the transfer is made.

I am not sure at this point that I would be willing to consider anything more directive to the municipalities. I am sure they are not going to be wildly enthusiastic about what we are already suggesting, that there be a specific time at which this transfer must be effected because it must be effected in support of the school boards themselves. I hope that ALSBO, which suggested it did not like this—it wanted it to be done more frequently—will recognize that many of the municipalities in which it does not function, because ALSBO is for large school boards, in many of the municipalities that are significantly smaller the tax collection method is much less concentrated than it is in Metropolitan Toronto, Kitchener, the Waterloo area, Windsor or London.

I therefore suggest that ALSBO should seriously consider watching to see how this works for a period of time before it asks for further amendments to this section of the act.

The member for St. Catharines suggested there was no response to the ALSBO communication. There was a very full response to it. It was not on paper; it was on the basis of eyeball-to-eyeball discussion between the minister and the president of ALSBO, between the deputy minister and the executive firector, or whatever they call her, of ALSBO and—

Mr. Sweeney: And you told them who is running education in this province.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I simply said this was a matter to be discussed by our usual means of communication, which is the regular meetings we have with the Ontario School Trustees' Council, at which ALSBO is represented. We had one of those meetings last week. That is the time to discuss all of these matters, instead of firing off all sorts of letters while the rest of the school trustees are not aware of what one group of school trustees is saying.

Mr. Sweeney: They need to be told they are not running the show.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I keep telling them that this is the place to do the communicating.

In addition to that, the director of the legislation branch had a very long discussion with the president of ALSBO, and as a result of those discussions it was suggested that no written response was necessary to the letter that was sent. Therefore, I think perhaps the member is being just a tiny bit misled in his suggestion that the only way to get a response from the minister about all this is to have a session in committee. If he wants a session in committee, that is perfectly fine; but to use it as a platform for ALSBO to complain it has not had a response from the ministry is entirely wrong. I would like the member to know this.

Mr. Bradley: I will have to check my good sources.

9:20 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What I am telling him is fact. I do not care what his sources say; that is the fact. We have responded very clearly to the concerns expressed by the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario.

In addition to that, the member for St. Catharines suggested there were problems with early payments about which I was unsympathetic. I am not unsympathetic. I am very sympathetic. The difficulty is to persuade the Ministry of Treasury and Economics that the cash flow response necessary for that kind of activity is appropriate, given the difference between their fiscal year and our fiscal year and the kinds of problems and tensions that produces.

I have supported the position of the school boards before Treasury for six years and I will continue to support it. I think a larger proportion should be delivered early in the year. That is a matter I will continue to discuss with my colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman).

Mr. Bradley: That is one of the few times the minister has not won.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: There have been several times I have not won. One does not win all the time.

The matter related to the sick leave credits is a matter I had not heard they were concerned about; that is, not half-time but part-time teachers who are hired on a part-time basis constantly.

I am not sure that is a valid criticism because we have specifically worded this to ensure that the kinds of benefits which would accrue to a full-time teacher are computed for the teacher who is teaching part-time or half-time. If there is a problem there, I will be happy to look at it. If there needs to be a change, we will certainly look at the change that may be necessary.

The member for Kitchener-Wilmot asked several questions, most of which I think I can answer except the one regarding 24 kilometres. I am not sure where that came from. It was in the act previously. Why was it decided? It was in the report of the joint committee that was set up by the Premier related to French-language instruction in Ontario. It was their recommendation that it be 24 kilometres.

Mr. Sweeney: That is only 14 miles.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I know. It is a significantly shorter distance than the distances usually included in the legislation regarding education. It is a matter that could be looked at rather critically. Perhaps that is what we should do in committee, look at the distance that would appear to be appropriate.

The member for Kitchener-Wilmot suggested as well that the removal of English as a subject of instruction in grades 9 to 12 was of some concern. Under Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions, there is a significant change in the requirements for francophone students in Ontario.

If a student is francophone, the five language components may all be French language or they may be French language plus English. It is required that there be one credit in English for all francophone students in the province, just as one credit in French is required for all anglophone students in the province. It is a matter of balance.

It is my understanding that the vast majority of francophone students in Ontario will study English on an annual basis during the entire four years of their secondary school program, because they recognize it as a necessity. However, to try to provide balance in the requirements for both francophones and anglophones under OSIS, we moved in the direction of removing that annual

requirement for an English subject in the secondary school program.

The other matter related to English is, to state clearly, that the provisions which relate to francophone students in predominantly English parts of the province also relate to anglophone students in predominantly French parts of the province. That is the second section which I think the member questioned in his remarks.

Mr. Sweeney: The question had to do more with the admission of pupils who are not French-speaking to French-speaking—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am coming to that.

Even at the present time, in areas where there is a French-language secondary school, there is an admissions committee that determines the facility, fluency and capability of the young person in the French language for purposes of admission to the school. That is not changed under this legislation. That admissions committee is still there.

I have raised and I will continue to raise what I consider to be a matter of concern that should be of import to both francophones and anglophones in this province, that is, that we have very large numbers of primarily anglophone students in our elementary schools who are being taught almost entirely in the French language and who are becoming extremely fluent as a result of immersion programs.

Many of those students would like to continue their secondary school program in the French language. It seems to me there needs to be a good deal of sympathy and understanding within the admissions committee in French-language secondary schools for the capacity, fluency and capability of those students as well. Many of them could probably benefit a great deal and probably would add a good deal to the school's ambience. I doubt if it would in any way damage the atmosphere for the francophone students.

With those increasing numbers and the decreasing number of francophone students in Ontario, it would seem to be sensible if we could find a way to meld or mesh those students who in many instances have an equal capacity in the French language within the secondary school program. I hope it is something the admissions committee will look at with sympathy and understanding in the future.

I think that will happen because I am assured by some of the representatives of the various francophone organizations that they see this as something they should be looking at a good deal more openly than they have in the past. Perhaps with the guarantee that is provided in this bill,

they will feel sufficiently secure to move in that direction with comfort and without concern.

I suggested earlier it was important that the other component regarding the languages instruction commission be supported vigorously because one of our problems has been a lack of capability for resolution of some of the problems. The problems went on, sometimes for inordinate periods, which did nothing to improve the atmosphere for the final resolution. Although it is a burden for the minister—

Mr. Martel: But the minister can carry it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am thinking of ministers in the future, if I may say so.

Mr. Conway: Is this the announcement?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Although it may be a burden for the minister to have to make the final decision about this, it is one reasonable means of providing some finality to some of these difficult circumstances in a way that can be effective and can shorten the period of conflict, so we do not have the difficulties that have occurred in some parts of the province as a result of recommendations, particularly in the area of transportation of either francophone or anglophone students.

Mr. Eakins: I have my cheque book here. Is the minister running?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I think, therefore, this is a reasonable direction at this point. It is probably not perfect and it may have to be amended at some time in the future, but it is at least an initial step, which I think is the appropriate initial step in such circumstances.

Mr. Sweeney: It is preferable to the present situation.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, yes, almost anything would be.

Mr. Bradley: Has the minister checked this with the Orange Lodge?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As a matter of fact, I do not think I have, but I do not think that will be a major problem either. For the benefit of the member for Renfrew North, I would simply like to say I have no plans to make plans. I have not seen any cheque or anything. I am not running for anything.

I am delighted, as I said earlier, that the members opposite have been so enthusiastic in their support of this piece of legislation. I would like to suggest that they will be equally enthusiastic in future if I agree to the suggestion that this bill does go forward to committee for one session. I do not know which committee it

will be; that will depend on the House leader. Then we can have whatever hearings the member for St. Catharines thinks are necessary so we can report the bill fairly shortly in the House.

Motion agreed to.

9:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, perhaps with the agreement of the House, we could revert to motions.

The Deputy Speaker: May I ask the honourable House leader if the motion refers to this matter?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

Agreed.

MOTION

EDUCATION AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that Bill 119, An Act to amend the Education Act, be referred to the standing committee on social development for one sitting for public hearings on November 6, 1984, with the bill then to be reported.

Motion agreed to.

BUDGET DEBATE

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, you notice my colleagues went home.

Mr. Bradley: Is a motion for adjournment in order?

Mr. Ruston: It is always in order.

Mr. Sweeney: They have heard the member too often in caucus, that is the problem.

Mr. Martel: When one is House leader, one is accused of everything from selling out to compromising to you name it.

When I spoke last, I was saying to my friends to my right I have had to listen to three solid years of harassment for getting a formula for funding for the cauci—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: For the cauci?

Mr. Martel: They resented it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Cocci are bacteria.

Mr. Martel: Well, over there. They harassed me about the 30 for 22 formula for three years. Last time I was speaking I said to them, "Since you beggars opposed it all those years, I wonder if you want 30 for 27." My friend who was on the board at the time, the minister, I am wondering if she wants 30 for 26.

Mr. Sweeney: It seems reasonable.

Mr. Martel: I thought it might.

Mr. Sweeney: It takes time for these things to sink in.

Mr. Martel: Yes, a lot longer with the Liberals though. It took three years for it to sink in. Those people only look at the short run. I have been here a long time. I know these things are planned.

Mr. Sweeney: A 34 for 26 formula sounds even better.

Mr. Martel: It is interesting that none of them is screaming to get rid of the formula any longer, although their leader once said that when he fell below 30 he would be prepared to absorb the loss of all that staff.

Mr. Bradley: We know who is going to win the by-elections.

Mr. Martel: The members are not losing it in the interim, that is the interesting part. By the time we get around to it it might be 30 for 25. There is a lottery currently going on as to who the next Liberal is going to be. The one I got when I pulled mine out of the draw was John Sweeney.

Mr. Sweeney: You are kidding.

Mr. Martel: No, he was—

Mr. Deputy Speaker: Order. Would the member take his seat for a moment? The member for St. Catharines has a burning point of privilege.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I want to dispel the rumour that the member for Sudbury East is going to take a position with the regional municipality of Sudbury in the social services department.

Mr. Deputy Speaker: That is not a point of privilege. The member for Sudbury East is now returning to the budget debate.

Mr. Sweeney: There was never any truth to that.

Mr. Ruston: The member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) has an appointment coming up.

Mr. Sweeney: Is that offer still standing?

Mr. Conway: Does Morley Rosenberg need an executive assistant?

Mr. Martel: Is the member looking for a job? I might recommend him.

Mr. Conway: I thought the member might be more compatible.

Mr. Martel: No. I thought I might recommend my friend from Renfrew North.

There was an interesting thing just happened two weeks ago. I was up at the mass for the Pope

and I met the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor,) who was coming to Sudbury for an official sod-turning ceremony for a new police building. Do the members know where the new police building is? It is in Sudbury East. Can they imagine my delight that they were building it in Sudbury East?

It was not in the riding of the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon), but the minister said to me: "I cannot make it on Friday. I will not be there." I went to the sod-turning ceremony in Sudbury East, and the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) was there. They had six tables and chairs at the front.

Mr. Bradley: And you were not in any of them.

Mr. Martel: No, I was not in any of them; the member is right. But the spare seat was filled.

Mr. Bradley: By the member for Sudbury.

Mr. Martel: Right on.

Mr. Bradley: How did I guess?

Mr. Martel: The story gets better. They called on everyone to speak.

Mr. Bradley: But they did not call on you.

Mr. Martel: You are right again. That is perception.

Mr. Bradley: I was at the opening of Highway 406 this morning. All the Tories on the platform spoke, and then, of course—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, member for St. Catharines. We are all wrapped up in the member for Sudbury East's budget debate comments here.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I was going to say some kind words to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) because when he came to Sudbury and we went out to a school in my riding—he was then Minister without Portfolio—he made sure I was well recognized.

He did not play any games with us. I said to him then and I say to him now, I give him credit for that. There are more people in Sudbury East who voted for me than for anyone else.

Hon. Mr. Snow: We keep trying to change that.

Mr. Martel: Yes, and you might some day.

Hon. Mr. Snow: But you keep winning.

Mr. Martel: But you had the integrity to recognize that. The problem is when other ministers come to town they do not.

I want to tell members what happened. The government was giving plaques, as the members know. It gives plaques with a shovel on them when it has an official project. It presented one to everyone save the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Sweeney: A shovel for what?

Mr. Martel: Eventually, a brown paper envelope was delivered to me.

An hon. member: With a shovel in it.

Mr. Bradley: You always get it afterwards.

Mr. Martel: Yes, afterwards. I thought to myself, "The minister really does not enhance himself at all."

I always remember the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson), whom some people love to kick around, coming to Sudbury when we turned the sod for the new provincial building. He said to Bud Germa, my colleague then: "Bud, this is your riding. Come on up here and say a few words." He said to his staff, "Get Bud Germa a shovel so he can be in this with us because he represents the people of Sudbury, all of them, and he is in Queen's Park because more voted for him."

The minister really cheapens the whole process when he reduces himself to that sort of nitpicking and childishness. What he says to the people of Sudbury East is, "The democratic process is great as long as you elect a Tory."

But the Minister of Transportation and Communications did not do that, and he is much bigger man—I do not mean physically—in my eyes and in the eyes of the electorate of Sudbury East. It did not do him one bit of damage. People said, "That is the way to do things."

Hon. Mr. Snow: The people in St. Charles loved me, too.

Mr. Martel: I put the minister in a report of mine: Jim Snow visiting with people at my request in St. Charles. One can be small about these things. It might appear to be small potatoes, but the minister really does not enhance himself in the eyes of the electorate when he does that to an opposition member because it insults all the people there. It says to them, "You really do not count."

I say to my friend the minister, and I say it sincerely, he gets more kudos when he recognizes the member up front as representing the people in that area.

The Premier (Mr. Davis) is always giving gratuitous advice. I will give my friend a bit of gratuitous advice. He is bigger than that; he really is. He does not have to play childish games. He really does not because it ain't gonna

detract from his integrity that much. In fact, it will enhance it; it really will.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—pardon me—

Mr. Martel: I have not said anything out of order.

9:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: I said, "Pardon me." It is on a point of personal privilege. I think the record has to be clarified. I think the member for Sudbury East somewhat slants the facts—I will put it in that sense—when he says there was no recognition made. That is not a fact. Granted, and I acknowledge it quite publicly and frankly without apology, it was not part of the platform program. As far as I am concerned that kind of event is put on by the government. Whether we like it or not, the government happens to be on this side of the House, and I make no apologies for that to the taxpayers of Ontario.

I know that I personally, along with at least one other person, recognized the member's presence publicly from the platform as part of the process. I did not call on him, granted, but I did recognize from the podium that he was there and thanked him for being there.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for St. Catharines wants to speak on that point of order.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of whatever he rose on—was it privilege or order?

The Deputy Speaker: A point of order, correcting the member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Bradley: I rise on exactly that question, Mr. Speaker, and you will recognize this as well as others. Those people over there do not seem to recognize that it was not just the Tories in Ontario who paid for these projects; it was all the taxpayers of Ontario. It is a slap in the face to the 60 per cent of the people—

Mr. Sweeney: It is 75 per cent. There was only 25 per cent who did not vote Tory.

Mr. Bradley: —or whatever the percentage was who did not vote Tory in my riding or in the riding of the member for Sudbury East. That is the whole issue, and the members opposite do not recognize that. It is their own Tory people who—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member has made his point. The minister referred to "government." The member for Sudbury East will continue with his remarks on the debate of the budget.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, let me say that I deliberately did not name the minister, because I

did not want to embarrass him. I do not care for myself personally, because that does not cut the mustard, but the people I represent take part in the democratic process too. If I happen to win the riding, they as electors in this process are as entitled to the same recognition as that of a government member.

I say that to the minister sincerely. He would enhance himself, as my friends the member for Oakville (Mr. Snow) and the member for Lambton did when they came to town. In fact, people commented and gave them credit for their integrity.

If the minister believes the democratic process is only democratic as long as he wins, then he does not believe in the democratic process.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That is not what we are talking about at all.

Mr. Martel: Yes, we are. That is what we are talking about. The minister is not insulting me; he is insulting the whole electorate. When he yaps about who pays the tax bill, I remind him that the people of Sudbury East pay as much taxes as the people in Sudbury or in his riding.

Hon. Mr. McCague: We are going to turn the sod for Honda next Friday. Does the member for Sudbury East want to come?

Mr. Martel: Would the minister invite me? I would come up with him. Good boy.

It enhances a cabinet minister when he has that integrity. Some do not realize that. It enhances him; it does not denigrate him. It also enhances the democratic process. The Minister of Government Services should try it some day.

I have always taken the position that a good cabinet minister who is confident of what he is doing does not have to play chintzy games. The good ones, such as McKeough when he was here or John Rhodes, never played those silly games. They had too much intestinal fortitude.

I was reading an article the other day, Mr. Speaker, that you will be interested in. It is a Tory ad from Saskatchewan, if you can imagine. It used to be said that the New Democratic Party could not run anything. The Tories said the NDP made it impossible for industry to locate in Saskatchewan.

The Tory ad that is now being run to entice industry into Saskatchewan goes something like this: To prove Saskatchewan is a great province in which to do business, they cite the previous 10 years from 1972 to 1982; they quote the 10 years of the Blakeney government.

"The province's compound annual rate of growth in those 10 years was 4.2 per cent compared to 2.7 for the rest of Canada." That is

not bad. "The gross domestic product rose strongly from \$3.4 billion to \$5.2 billion. Personal income rapidly rose from \$2 billion to \$12 billion. Exports expanded by four times to \$6.5 billion. The population jumped 10 per cent during those 10 years. The dynamic economy thrived on a balanced mix of resources. One of the lowest per capita debt burdens in the country."

"Ten years as a growth leader in Canada. Gross domestic product rose 51 per cent. Nonresidential investment rose by 338 per cent. Retail sales rose 197 per cent. Personal disposable income rose 333 per cent. Farm cash receipts rose 345 per cent and farm land values rose 400 per cent. During the past decade, oil, potash and uranium thrust Saskatchewan to the forefront of Canadian mineral production."

This is not what the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) and the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) say when they go around. They say just the opposite. It goes on:

"Saskatchewan residents carry one of the lowest per capita debts in Canada and still enjoy an exceptional range of government services, and Saskatchewan's personal tax rate is the fourth lowest in all of Canada."

That is the Saskatchewan government—I think the guy's name is Devine—commenting on the 10 previous years, which were the Blakeney years. Is it not magnificent how Blakeney, with social planning, was able to put that province in the forefront? Now they have some of the lowest per capita debt. They also have the fourth lowest rate of personal income tax, which far exceeds, in a downward way, that of Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Look at the other three and look at the per capita debt. Who is lower? It says "one of the lowest." It does not say "the lowest."

Mr. Martel: It is not us. For personal income tax in Ontario one has to throw in medicare. There are no medicare premiums in Saskatchewan. Ontario is far higher than Saskatchewan. I thought the minister would like to hear that. It is the advertisement the Saskatchewan government is now sending out to industry to encourage it to locate in Saskatchewan.

It is too bad that Ontario, with all its resources and being near the industrial heartland of the United States, did not do sound planning as is the case in Saskatchewan. We have been the beneficiary of location and resources, and we have frittered them away. I will come back to that in a moment.

I want to say a few words about the Premier. I do not think I have ever faced a tougher

individual in this Legislature. He is a man Ontario looked on favourably. It is obvious from the polls and from some of his victories.

I thought his victories were not always fought on an appropriate basis. One is reminded of 1971. I was in that election when the Conservatives fought against separate schools. It is interesting to note that the Premier has now seen the wisdom of providing equal opportunity in the public system with one public separate system and one public school system. However, that is one of the most offensive things I can attribute to the Premier.

9:50 p.m.

After the 1981 election, I said history would not show the Premier in a good light over that issue. Maybe he was listening to me in his office, as he often does according to him. I am glad he has done that. It takes away a blemish that was on his record.

He is a tough individual, I guess a person that none of us knows very well. We have been around him for a long time, but none of us really cracked that exterior. I do not think even the Conservative members cracked the exterior. He is a very personal man, a very good family man, but nobody cracks that exterior.

I remember his predecessor John Robarts. We used to talk about the outdoors because he loved the outdoors and hunting and fishing. We had many a conversation about it over the four years I was here when he was still Premier. One does not get that way with this Premier, but there is his devotion to his family and sensitivity in some ways. He was always pragmatic. I think everything was measured in how many votes it was going to cost. I think that will show up in the long run. It may be the one blemish against the Premier.

I do not denigrate the work he did on the Constitution and so on, but there are other Premiers in other jurisdictions who took very courageous stands. I always felt the Premier waltzed with the rest of the province. The Conservatives are always pleased to say they go as fast as the public wants them to go. Maybe that is the reason for all that polling: so they never run into a roadblock.

That might be one of the things historians will eventually say; that he was very pragmatic. On decisive action—I do not even want to put it in those terms, because he did do some things that were quite decisive—in the forefront of breaking new ground totally, let us just leave it that he was pragmatic.

The Tories are going to miss him, more so than we. We are going to find that out in the next general election. But we wish him well whatever he does. We wish him well with the things he enjoys most, his family, and in whatever endeavour he faces. He will face it the same way he has faced his years as Premier and as Minister of Education.

I well recall when I was teaching that I used to get all these signatures of Bill Davis. I used to have to jump to those commands as a teacher and as a principal. But times change. We wish him well in whatever endeavours he undertakes, and we say that sincerely.

I want to turn to the budget, if I might. I can never recall the press being sucked in—if I can use those terms—as much as they were on the last budget. They were the most embarrassed group of people in the province. Remember the supersalesman telling them how much it was going to go up and it was going to cost so much? He scared the hell out of everyone. Then on budget day, they all brought their hankies out, wiped their brows and said: “Whew! God, he is not raising taxes.”

Well he was, but he did not do it frontally. He used a whole series of little things. There is ad valorem, for instance, which keeps rolling the cash in; every time gas goes up, the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) takes a bigger grab. Then there is the Ontario health insurance plan. If a person happens to be covered by a company plan, it does not bother him. But it is now \$756 per family per year. What a devastating figure for someone whose income is only \$15,000. It did not hurt everyone, or it did not hurt them too much, at least they thought. I think we now probably pay taxes of 50 cents on the dollar in a variety of ways.

I always hear such nonsense as: “Look at Sweden and how much they take from you. “They do it up front. But look at what Sweden puts back into the social system there. If we were ever even close to what they put back into Sweden on the dollars that are extracted from us, we would not have enough on 50 cents on the dollar, with the federal and provincial governments.

But, as I say, the Treasurer managed to fool them all, and the press was really dumb. If I were to guess why he will not become the next Premier, I would say it is because people will say that he is too smooth by half, that he is the sort of guy you cannot trust. I would have to concur with that. The public will see through him. He is too slick. People do not like slick people. That is why

the Premier liked being called Bland Billy from Brampton—

Hon. Mr. Sterling: The member has no problems then.

Mr. Martel: Not with him.

Hon. Mr. Sterling: No, the member himself.

Mr. Martel: No, no. I have never attempted to be slick or smooth. I say what I think up front, and I never look over my shoulder. If I take my lumps for it, fine; and if it goes well, then all the more power to me.

In that budget, the Treasurer set a series of programs in place to deal with the unemployed. I remember the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) used to try to sell what we were doing for youth in this province. It is a pile of nonsense. We have more youth unemployed now than we did before the Treasurer introduced his great program.

The Treasurer was setting the stage. He has the infrastructure in place with not much funding. I guarantee that in the next budget there will be all kinds of funding for those programs. The youth might starve this winter; that does not matter. The minister must set the stage for the next budget because it will be the eve of the election. How many people will suffer this winter? It does not matter.

We are pretty callous. Those of us who have jobs wring our hands in despair. We do not say to the minister that many hundreds of thousands of young people do not have jobs in Ontario, that many hundreds of thousands, young and old, do not have jobs. We do not care about them. We are so callous that we manipulate it for the next budget because that will be on election eve. The suffering does not matter.

One only has to come to Sudbury to recognize suffering. There are 19,000 unemployed in Sudbury and Manitoulin. What is being done? Not a thing. The Treasurer came to town a couple of weeks ago and he and the member for Sudbury signed an agreement on television. Do members know what it meant? Thirty part-time jobs. Imagine what that does in an area where there are 19,000 people unemployed. If that is the government's planning for the future for those people, it is grim, particularly if one looks at the fact that more than 12,000 people have left the Sudbury area.

With 19,000 unemployed now, one can imagine what the unemployment figure would have been if 12,000 people had not left the area in the past two or three years. The Treasurer came to town, got his picture on television and the

whole business, for 30 part-time jobs. Whoop-de-do! Is that not great stuff?

Mr. Bradley: I will get his constituency newsletter for the member. I have a copy.

Mr. Martel: I get them in my post office box on Spadina all the time.

Mr. Bradley: Does it not say \$13 million or something?

Mr. Martel: Right. All they did with the budget this year was set the stage. It is perverse that the government could be so happy about it. I listened to the person currently occupying the chair—no, it was not; or maybe it was—a week or two ago, during the budget debate, saying what a great budget it was. No, I made a mistake, my friend—I do not want you to rise on a point of order from the chair—it was the member for York Centre (Mr. Cousens) who said what a great budget it was.

This budget has not created a job. It is good for the next election. That is what it is all about. Next year, there will be handsome funding to retrain people. It is too callous to put the plans and infrastructure in place now, and then next year to put the money in to do some retraining. That is the height of cynicism.

10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. McCague: The member should read Hansard.

Mr. Martel: I have read Hansard. I know there are 19,000 unemployed in Sudbury. What worries me in this age of technological change, which is creating the problems for all governments, is that we have not yet answered one question. We cannot stop technological change, but we have not decided how we are going to pay people.

When is someone with an ounce of brains over there going to answer that question? If we have technological change, and it is coming and inevitable, we have to say to industry we are not opposed to technological change but government and industry are going to have to sit down and decide how people are going to have an income. We spent over \$12 billion last year in unemployment insurance and welfare in Canada. That does not allow anyone to buy a car or a fridge or a stove or anything. Those people just exist.

While they realize technological change is going to come if we are going to remain competitive, governments have to find the mechanism to pay people. How are we going to compensate the 1.5 million in Canada or the 600,000 in Ontario who are without jobs? I have not heard that here yet and I did not hear it during

the federal election. People talked about retraining. For what? I could not help but admire the audacity of some of the leaders in the last federal election when they talked about retraining. What are we going to retrain them for, I say to my friend from Renfrew, if we do not have jobs.

There are skilled workmen in my area with two and three tickets who cannot find a job. They have retrained once already, some of them twice. With two and three tickets for different types of jobs, they are still without a job. Technological changes occur. We see it every day in this House. My friend from Renfrew keeps raising it. There is one plant shutdown after another, more layoffs, and no one deals with the problem of income.

When we talk about such things as early retirement, the government puts its head in the sand like an ostrich. I remember the 1981 election when the Premier said, "If I am re-elected, we are going to send the whole matter of pensions to a select committee." That was three and a half years ago. It went to a select committee and we have not changed a damned thing.

The Treasurer went to a ministers' meeting this spring and led the charge on pensions and pension reform. One of the solutions is earlier retirement for our older workers, to give jobs to the younger people who will buy homes and cars and send their kids to school. Another solution might be a shorter work week, but we will not answer the basic question. If we allow technological change, how are we going to pay people? How are they going to have an income to live with dignity and retain their homes?

I look around the Sudbury basin, as worker after worker comes to me, losing his home because he is unemployed. We give him a part-time job. He was getting \$260 a week unemployment. The government goes in there, as the Treasurer did a couple of weeks ago, and gives the guy a part-time job at minimum wage. When he goes back on unemployment insurance he has a \$135-a-week income and he walks away from his home.

The members opposite sit there like fat cats and say, "You are going hurt industry." What about the people who are losing their homes? What about the young people who do not even have a first job? Some of them are 23, 24, or 25. They are totally disenchanted. The cynicism of the budget is that they put some jobs and programs in place and do not fund them much, but next year, an election year, they will put the funding in.

That cynicism is almost too much to take because that whole group will suffer all winter without jobs. Everybody is after them. It used to be at one time if someone was living away from home at 20, he could get welfare if he could not get a job. Try it today. I am not sure what they are supposed to live on.

I remember the beautiful question my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) put to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) today. He asked, "Why was it so easy to force the Toronto Transit Commission workers back to work in Toronto when you are having some difficulty in Mississauga?"

I remember in that one-day session, my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) and I asked the Treasurer what he was doing for the unemployed in Sudbury. He said, "What a great job my friend Jim Gordon is doing." He did not answer the questions that were put to him.

Power corrupts. What does absolute power do? It corrupts absolutely. I am not sure what the expression is, I have heard it many times. Do I have it right?

Mr. Conway: I fear Jim Gordon is both the member's curse and his nemesis.

Mr. Martel: No. He is nothing. I am just saying when one puts a question to the minister he does not answer; he gives some gobbledegook. He does not even deal with the 19,000 unemployed. That is a sort of cynicism about people who are distressed. We are trying to encourage the government to look at some alternatives that might provide jobs and they do not even want to talk about it. They are satisfied because 85 per cent do have jobs. Although they might have some fear that they might lose them with more automation, they are content. I guess I am not supposed to say that, but they are content because they have a job.

I would just say to my friends in the cabinet, it is too bad they do not take some of this stuff seriously. It is too bad the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague) would not say to the rest of his colleagues, "We are telling industry they are not automating and they are not laying off until we find a solution as to how we pay people or until we find solutions on work weeks and schedules that employ most people." Nothing comes. They sit there and I do not know how.

We are a country, as I started out by saying, that is in the heartland of the industrial United States, wealthy with resources. This is a government, despite its 41 years in power, that has

squandered those resources like no one else I know. When we had 85 or 95 per cent of the world's nickel, tell me why we did not use that capacity to induce industry to locate here rather than shipping it out. Tell me why in this day and age we still give exemptions to mining companies to ship their resources to be refined in Norway. Why are we sending nickel from Falconbridge Ltd. to create 1,200 or 1,300 jobs in Norway while Falconbridge lays off 1,300 in Sudbury? What are we doing with the resource wealth of this country? It just boggles the mind.

Let me read a little article from the *Globe and Mail*—if members think I am so far out—regarding a Mr. Rommel in Sudbury. Mr. Rommel is age 30, just one of 1,050 Inco workers laid off amid a global recession. We all recognize the global recession, but some of us on that select committee in 1978 recommended we start a nickel institute in Canada that could find some diverse use for nickel and manufacture those commodities in this country. They did not do it. They did not accept one recommendation. I say to my friend the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), not one recommendation of the select committee on the Inco and Falconbridge layoffs was ever introduced. Not one. I just wonder where we are.

Poor Mr. Rommel lost his home and he decided to pack up and leave. He is moving out.

10:10 p.m.

Let me just quote from the article: "In fact, many civic and business officials seem determined to put on the best face." They do not like it when we talk like this down here. They get very angry with us. They say we create a bad image for Sudbury. "Some Sudbury residents are actually unaware that the soup kitchen on Minto Street is serving 200 free meals a day." Is that not wonderful? In the nickel capital of the world, an area that has made literally hundreds of billions of dollars of profit, 200 free meals a day are being served.

Mr. Conway: The church basements are full in Ottawa.

Mr. Martel: They go there for their food, not just to sleep. When one talks about rent, we have 530 families that need geared-to-income housing. They cannot afford to stay in the houses they are in. We have asked the minister to get into the subsidization of apartments in any variety of ways. The government does not care. The situation does not affect enough people and therefore is not going to influence the Big Blue Machine's victory, so to hell, why worry about them. They are only people.

In the industrial heartland in terms of mineral wealth, there is a soup kitchen serving at least 200 meals daily. What have we done? The minister came to town and he offered us 30 part-time jobs. It is really frustrating.

In the city of Sudbury there are now 19,000 unemployed people, and 12,000 to 14,000 people have moved out or it would be even worse. There are 824 unemployables on welfare, but 1,802 employables on welfare. With the greatest mineral deposit in the world, we have not diversified one job.

My colleague the member for Nickel Belt and I put together a paper called *A Challenge to Sudbury* in which we suggested the government could act as a catalyst. I hear all these beggars say, "Government cannot do it all."

The Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller), who used to be one of the worst people to follow a recommendation by this party, said that if one wants to get an industry going he should maybe put up a little of the equity capital in it. When the Minister of Industry and Trade was there last year, it is interesting that he took 37.5 per cent equity in a small company. He bragged about it. He said, "I know Martel is out there, and I know what he is going to say to the press after: 'They have stolen our policy of government putting some equity in.'"

I learned that when I was in West Germany with a select committee. When the West Germans wanted people to locate on the Russian border and industry to provide jobs for people who were there, they became the catalyst. They did not own it, they did not try to run it, but they put in some of the equity capital and induced people to locate there. In Sudbury, the potential for that sort of thing is endless. I am going to go over some of it.

We sent this document to both levels of government. That we did not get a response is understandable. If the government had to answer any of these things, it would have to answer in the affirmative because most of the ideas we put in this report came from provincial and federal government studies.

One of them was a nickel institute recommended years ago by government staff in the Ministry of Natural Resources. The purpose of the institute would be to find sources for nickel. I will list a couple of the items made from nickel that we imported in 1981. In that year, \$21 million worth of stainless steel cutlery was imported into Ontario. We do not have the capacity? We do not have the resources? We get a great deal of it from Sweden.

There was \$40 million worth of stainless steel surgical instruments. We do not have stainless steel? We do not have the platinum that might go into it? There was \$241 million worth of valves, \$43 million worth of heat exchangers, \$22 million worth of dairy and milk product plant machinery, \$92 million worth of X-ray equipment, \$83 million worth of gas turbines and parts from nickel. All these were imported.

When we sent our paper to the government, we thought that if there was a nickel institute it would try to find for import replacement those areas in which government could become the catalyst in starting some of those industries or bringing together pools of capital to do it. There has not even been a response, and yet these are the sorts of manufactured goods we are bringing into Canada made from nickel.

It does not amaze the government, does it? It does not make it ask, "What the hell are we doing with our natural resources?" But the government has its own policy. It has section 104 of the Mining Act, which says one cannot ship the stuff out unprocessed. But when the House is not in session, the government also gives Inco, Falconbridge and a whole series of other companies exemptions so they can continue to send it out processed or semi-processed, and then we import all these commodities instead of trying to replace them.

Mr. Mackenzie: It just gave some new exemptions.

Mr. Martel: Yes, it just gave some new exemptions.

The Pope came to town. I do not mean His Holiness; I am talking about Alan. He came to Sudbury recently.

The Deputy Speaker: You mean the Minister of Natural Resources.

Mr. Conway: No, he is the Pope, is he not?

Mr. Martel: That is right. The Minister of Natural Resources came to town.

Mr. Conway: No. North of the French River it is not the Pope; it would be "Your Highness."

Mr. Martel: It would not be Alan.

Mr. Conway: But if Alan is the Pope, what is Larry?

Mr. Martel: "Alan Pope Condemns the New Democratic Party." He comes to Sudbury and those are the headlines at a nominating convention. He does not talk about the problems of the Sudbury area. He maligns us and then he uses the red scare. He says, "The socialists want to nationalize, and we have to fight those beggars."

I am glad the minister is here. The Treasurer applauded that. When we had an emergency debate here a couple of years ago on Inco and Falconbridge, as the Treasurer applauds loudly, I want to remind him that the person who called for the nationalization of Inco and Falconbridge in one fell swoop was none other than the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon). More applause, please.

When the Pope comes to town and says that socialists are going to nationalize, he forgets about his own colleague, who gets front-page stuff in the Toronto Star because he calls for the nationalization of Inco and Falconbridge.

Mr. Conway: Is the member for Sudbury not a democratic socialist?

Mr. Martel: He is not even a Conservative, I am told.

The Pope comes to town and he does not talk about the 19,000 people who are unemployed. He does not mention a word about any solutions to any problem facing those 19,000 people. He says the socialists are going to nationalize, forgetting his own colleague and forgetting about the plight of 19,000 people.

I am going to turn back to our document because one of the things we recommended in this document a couple of years ago was the production of fertilizer in Sudbury. We have a big acid rain problem. The government says it is doing something about it. Inco is the biggest single source, and Inco knows it. Because Inco has the capacity since it bought out CIL, we suggested that it should produce more sulphuric acid. There is a phosphate deposit near Cargill township, and if one puts phosphate with sulphuric acid, one makes fertilizer.

That was one of our recommendations in A Challenge to Sudbury, that the government become the catalyst in trying to make that happen. Do you know what the Pope did? I got the headlines from the paper of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché)—it is nice to own your own paper: "Alan Pope Assures Piché Jobs Won't Be Exported." Is that not wonderful?

We suggested we should take these phosphates from Cargill, process them there and then bring them to Sudbury, combine them with the sulphur dioxide, the sulphuric acid, and make fertilizer. There are two communities in northern Ontario that could benefit from that sort of enterprise.

The member for Cochrane North gets up in indignation and says, "Those socialists want to take jobs from around the Cochrane area." If the Treasurer does not believe me, I will quote him.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I believe you.

Mr. Martel: You believe me? Then I will not quote him.

10:20 p.m.

Anyway, what does the Pope say? He says the following: "Mr. Pope assured Mr. Piché that his ministry believed in processing all resources at source." Jesus, when did processing at source happen? This government just gave Falconbridge until 1989 to continue to send its nickel unrefined to Norway. What kind of games do those beggars play with people who do not have jobs? "We believe in processing at source." What a lot of nonsense. Then the Pope goes on. He was not satisfied. Cargill deposits were no exception to the rule and we would deal with them in Cargill. That is where we do it, except there is a little hooker in there.

Mr. Conway: This is a family show.

Mr. Martel: This is a little hooker. Oh, pardon me. What does the owner of the phosphate deposit say? The owner says: "We cannot get an adequate supply of sulphuric acid, so therefore we want to ship it to the United States. We cannot get a guaranteed supply of sulphuric acid, so we have to take the phosphates out of the ground and send them to the United States, if we can only get a fair transportation cost."

I say no way.

Mr. Mackenzie: Did Inco not tell us it could not sell its sulphuric acid?

Mr. Martel: That is right. My colleague says Inco said it could not sell enough sulphuric and, if it produced more, it would glut the world market and drive the price of sulphuric acid down.

Here we have two products in northern Ontario. If we combined them, we could be producing our own fertilizer. I say it is up to the government, not to start it necessarily, but to become the catalyst to make it happen.

However, when we send them a copy of A Challenge to Sudbury, as we did to the man who now occupies the seat as Treasurer, who wants to be number one and will announce shortly, I presume, when he was at the Ministry of Industry and Tourism, he did not bother responding to A Challenge to Sudbury or any of the recommendations we made as some solution to the problems confronting the Sudbury area. There was nary an answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is not so.

Mr. Martel: Oh, yes, it is so. The minister should tell me what would be wrong with a

fertilizer plant using the acids from Sudbury and the phosphates from Cargill to make fertilizer. We would not even have to import it.

He also said at that time that we should be producing and moving to import replacement. We listed all the various things we import, from cutlery down to equipment and so on. We also recommended that the government had to get involved.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is a good newsletter, I am sure.

Mr. Martel: I want to say I got an interesting letter from a member of the Progressive Conservative executive. He thought I would want to see this personal letter that was being sent out by the member for Sudbury. He said he brought \$70 million singlehandedly. The ante is up in the last six months. He got tired carrying the bags back to Sudbury with all the money in them, but he persisted and over two or three years he managed to lug it all back. It is a tough job, carrying \$100 million back to Sudbury.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is a tough job, but he will have help soon.

Mr. Martel: Pardon?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He will have help soon; not to worry.

Mr. Martel: The member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski) said that to me in 1967.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Bud Germa in 1981.

Mr. Martel: He brought \$60 million singlehandedly. What a nice way to carry it.

The occupational health centre is an interesting one. I want the Treasurer to listen to this. He interjected. The occupational health centre was approved by the member for York East (Mr. Elgie) before his friend even came to Queen's Park. With all the meetings we had on the occupational health centre, the member for Sudbury declined to come to any of them.

Mr. Conway: That looks like a pretty jazzy Queen's Park report. Mind you, if he brought \$70 million home—

Mr. Martel: No, \$100 million. What audacity! He had nothing to do with it. I had worked on it and it was approved before he got elected. I am glad he brought it. We could not have sent it by Brinks.

Then there is the Sudbury 2001 funding base for entrepreneurial projects, \$300,000. This must be the goat project which was such an abysmal mess. What else has he taken responsibility for?

Mr. Conway: Did the member for Sudbury bring goats there?

Mr. Martel: On his back as well. He literally carried the goats and the money to Sudbury. He is a strong man.

There was \$10,750,000. I know the Treasurer would agree that figure was arrived at before the last provincial election. It was announced during the election. I guess the member for Sudbury put it on his back and took that \$10 million with him.

If I can be serious for a moment, I am glad that people like Dr. Gilles Demarais, whom I know the Treasurer knows, and Johnny Gagnon are the two guys who were probably most instrumental in the cancer treatment centre. Dr. Demarais is the radiologist who came to me in 1974 when we started to pursue it. He knew of the difficulty where someone had a relative who had cancer and had to come to Toronto for treatment. Dr. Demarais headed that whole thing up and John Gagnon from the steelworkers, who helped to bury 100 steelworkers who died of cancer, were responsible for that project, if anyone was.

I added my few comments and a whole series of letters, but I do not take credit for it.

Mr. Bradley: Is that what it says in there?

Mr. Martel: No, it does not. It was the member for Sudbury who did it. It was not Dr. Demarais and it was not Johnny Gagnon.

Mr. Conway: What did the Tories say privately about the member for Sudbury?

Mr. Martel: I cannot repeat it. Anyway, let me go back to A Challenge to Sudbury. There are opportunities for the government to get involved. Inco needs a new smelter. If they got a new smelter, there would be jobs in construction and pollution would be reduced. The sulphuric acid, together with the phosphates from Cargill, would make fertilizer. Can we get an answer?

I know if one gets up to ask a question of the Treasurer, he says right away, "My friend Gordon spoke to me about that." We are talking seriously about a job that would create 10 years of employment in the construction industry. We know Inco cannot afford a new smelter at present. One could move to such things as loan guarantees or equity participation. There is a whole variety of ways in which one could deal with the problem, but we cannot even get an answer out of them. They do not talk; they are mute.

One little program we tried to get started was the third stage of an agricultural development in Valley East. I wrote to the Treasurer, because with the various funds he has that could create

150 jobs, and I wrote to the Minister of Northern Affairs. What did the Treasurer say? "We are not interested. We did stage 1 and we did stage 2." We have heard all the pompous talk about what the government is doing.

We ask them to provide the funding. We will need \$3 million for stage 3 of the agricultural development in that area. Then we get a little letter from the Treasurer saying: "I am sorry. We do not have funding for stage 3 of the agricultural development," which would provide jobs. As I said, he came to town a week ago. He signed a thing for 30 part-time jobs. We certainly appreciated that. It really took down the unemployment in Sudbury, from 19,000 to 18,970.

10:30 p.m.

On motion by Mr. Martel, the debate was adjourned.

Mr. Speaker: It being 10:30 of the clock, I call on the member for Windsor-Sandwich pursuant to standing order 28(a).

ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I hope my friend the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) will stay. It is too bad he left the Ministry of Health.

The last week or so has demonstrated to me and to the people of the community I represent the complete and utter failure of this Minister of Health (Mr. Norton), of his ministry and of the district health council to appreciate the crisis that has been allowed to develop in the delivery of health and hospital care services in Windsor.

I am sorry the minister and the entire Tory caucus are not here.

Warning signals have been present for the past two years at least, but they have been ignored. They cannot be ignored any longer. Tonight I want to speak during this adjournment debate about the politics of health and hospital care in my community.

Many of the facts surrounding this struggle for decent chronic care facilities are well known. The minister knows, his officials know and the community knows that the present facility is a disgrace. It is a 60-year-old former school that houses 150 of the citizens of Windsor and Essex county in a building so bad that it has taken \$1.5 million just to meet today's fire and safety standards.

The minister, his ministry and the community know that the tortured history of this proposal for a new chronic care hospital facility is more than a decade old. It goes from the exciting days of the early 1970s, when the construction of a new 300-bed facility first received approval in principle,

to the dismal, disgraceful fall of 1984, when the present minister with the apparent compliance of the district health council proposed even more studies while sick patients lay in beds in hallways, in outpatient departments and in paediatric units, or waited until late at night for admission to hospitals, because of the desperate level of overcrowding.

Tonight, in these remarks on the politics of health care and hospital care in Windsor, I intend to be blunt because to remain silent is to do a disservice to my community and to the people in it. Let me first say that the district health council and the members of that council have not performed the role that Windsor and Essex county have every right to expect from such an organization. The silence from that quarter in the face of irrefutable overcrowding statistics has been deafening.

The suggestion that this problem is somehow the result of the inability of the hospital community to reach a consensus borders on the incredible. It is time for the district health council to speak out and to involve itself in this issue, or it is time to rid ourselves of an organization so dedicated to running interference for the Ministry of Health that it has outlived its usefulness.

As for the minister—I say this with respect and with some sadness because I believe that the minister, while he is not here tonight, is a good and generous man in many ways—the time has come to stop playing politics with this facility.

I take no comfort in standing in my place day after day, month after month and year after year, complaining of the neglect of this ministry. I want action. I want our ill and our elderly treated with the decency and dignity they deserve.

In the past few days I have heard from senior nurses in two hospitals that the word is being spread in Windsor that we will not get a chronic care facility until that community elects a Tory and that Conservatives are holding out that option as a bit of blackmail.

Let me say to the minister tonight and to his Tory colleagues, in paraphrasing the ad that John Houseman uses: "In politics you get elected the old-fashioned way. You earn the right to serve."

In my community, through the politics of neglect that is being callously practised on a daily basis in this totally unacceptable delay in approving a new chronic care hospital, the Conservatives have not earned the right to serve. They have shown that by their neglect and their absence again tonight.

As the days drag to months and the months drag to years, the Tory government and the Tory

minister earns only contempt for making the weak in our society the pawns in a political power game.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I want to briefly address the House on this point. My colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich has served notice of his dissatisfaction according to the standing orders. You ruled, of course, that was in order. We had an evening session during which there was a rather lively debate. My colleagues the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) and the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) have made interesting contributions to the debate.

It concerns me a great deal to note that at 10:30 tonight, as my friend the member for Windsor-Sandwich rose in his place to deal with a matter very important to him and to the Windsor community, at least six members of the government party, which has more than 70 members in this assembly, walked out of the chamber. To a man, they walked out of the chamber.

It concerns me that an elementary courtesy would not have been followed whereby at least one member of the government party might have stayed behind at least to show some interest on the part of the government in the ongoing matters of debate before this Legislature.

I realize it is late and members have other commitments. There were at least six members of the government party in this House at 10:30. When the member for Windsor-Sandwich rose in his place to deal with his concern, every one of those members left the chamber at that time. I do not think the interests of the Legislature are well served when that kind of conduct, for whatever reason, takes place.

I do not want to be unduly prickly about this, but it concerns me as a member of this Legislature that not one of the six or seven members who were here could find it in his heart to remain behind to give the House a minimum quorum and to show some interest on the government side in the matters my friend the member for Windsor-Sandwich very properly brings to the attention of this House.

Referring to standing orders 28 and 5, I want to draw that to your attention and to the attention of the House for whatever action might be considered.

10:40 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I ask for your indulgence for a moment. What sort of situation is the Speaker in if an entire side of the House leaves when the standing rules are in effect? How

would this zoo operate if everyone on this side of the House did not come in on Thursday? Where would that leave the Speaker?

Obviously, the government does nothing but show disdain for the whole process. While it might be 10:30 p.m., the rules call for this sort of debate if a member so desires. This is not the first time ministers have failed to stay around to respond. I guess that is their option.

I say this sincerely. If the Liberal and the New Democratic parties refused to come in on Thursdays, how would the Speaker be able to allow this House to continue to operate? I would suspect the Speaker would be in some difficulty. He might say, "There is a quorum," and then he would have some difficulty because neither of the opposition parties would be in attendance. Could we play that game all the time? Whenever it pleased us, could we simply vacate the building as the Tories have done tonight?

What position is the Speaker left in, and the way the system is supposed to work, when we see nothing but absolute disdain for what someone might have to say? Mr. Speaker, you have a responsibility to indicate—

Mr. Speaker: No.

Mr. Martel: You say no. Then maybe we should try it and see how this House would operate, and whether it could operate legitimately, without the opposition parties being in here.

Mr. Bradley: Bring on the television cameras.

Mr. Martel: You say it could not operate? That is what the government has done. I do not think we on this side of the House should put up with that kind of—I will not say it, but I think honourable members know the word of which I am thinking. It rhymes with "rap."

Mr. Speaker, I think it is high time you indicated to them your displeasure at the conduct they are demonstrating.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) and the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) make a good point. It is really a matter of courtesy. There is nothing out of order. As I read the standing orders, there is provision for a member to be heard for up to five minutes at 10:30 p.m. There is provision for a reply of up to five minutes.

Mr. Wrye: We will wait for it.

Mr. Speaker: Maybe you will.

Mr. Wrye: In the fullness of time.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing the Speaker can do to enforce that.

I would like to make one thing very clear, and I have made this point many times. It is not the responsibility of the Speaker to ensure attendance in this House.

Mr. Martel: I understand that.

Mr. Speaker: That is the point I wanted to make.

Mr. Martel: Might I ask the Speaker one question to help me then? What position would the Speaker be in, let us say Thursday, if the opposition parties did not show up? What would you do, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: That is a rather hypothetical question.

Mr. Martel: It is not a hypothetical question, because they are playing the game.

What position would you be in? Would it be legal? Maybe you could find out whether it would be legal, whether this House would be able to operate if the opposition parties chose not to come in to listen to the stupid ministerial statements that are nothing but gobbledegook anyway.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, very briefly on that point: I do not want to belabour this, but I think the member for Sudbury East raises a hypothetical but none the less important point.

It might be helpful over the coming days if you would confer with your constitutional and parliamentary advisers who adorn the table and presumably the learned halls of academe to see exactly what the situation is. The rather breathtaking conduct of this 71-member majority government here at 10:30 of the clock tonight begs the question.

I am a great believer in parliamentary courtesies. We are here to talk, to debate and to listen. I recognize that some people have pressing obligations, but I do not think it is too much to ask, since the rules of standing order 28 provide for this.

Under that standing order, the normal business of the House carries on for such a member as my friend the member for Windsor-Sandwich, who indicated tonight his interest to pursue a very important matter in his community. We pay parliamentary secretaries to stand in for the ministers. You will well appreciate, Mr. Speaker, how ably you discharged that responsibility prior to your becoming Speaker.

I can accept that a minister might not be able to be here, but I find it very difficult that not one member of the 71-member majority government or one of the six who were here at 10:30 could not find it in his heart to be here.

If it is not a breach of the quorum, and it probably is, it is certainly a breach of one of the basic parliamentary courtesies that as long as the ordinary business of the House is carrying on, there should be at least one representative from each of the three parties. That is the way we carry on the business of the committees, and it should certainly apply in the House as well.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, it is usual that when one adjourns the debate, someone over there moves the adjournment of the House. Am I wrong?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Martel: I am wrong; it is just automatic. I thought someone usually moved the adjournment of the House.

Mr. Speaker: No, at 10:30 of the clock it is automatic.

Mr. Martel: I just wanted to clarify that.

Mr. Speaker: I do not want to be argumentative, and I will find out what the honourable members have asked.

Referring to standing order 28(b), if I may just quote from the bottom of page 7, where it talks about the time limitations: "five minutes to be allowed to the member raising the matter and five minutes to the minister or to his parliamentary assistant to reply if he so wishes." There is no obligation on their part to reply.

Mr. Conway: But our question is, does the standard rule of quorum apply? Do we have a quorum when, while the business of the House is going on, one side departs the scene entirely? That is the question on which I would appreciate your thought and consideration.

Mr. Speaker: All right. I will just reinforce my own knowledge on that. I will not say; I will wait until I find out.

The House adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

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Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
Jones, T., Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Mississauga North PC)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McCague, Hon. G. R., Chairman, Management Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Carleton-Grenville PC)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)



No. 100

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Thursday, October 25, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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Contents of the proceedings reported in this issue of Hansard appears at the back, together with an alphabetical list of the speakers taking part.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, October 25, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the business of the House, I would like to read this ruling.

On Tuesday evening, October 23, 1984, at the normal adjournment hour of 10:30 p.m., the adjournment debate for which the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) had given notice under standing order 28 took place, following which the members for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) and Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) rose to criticize the fact that no members were present on the government side of the House for the debate, asked me to take some action and made reference to the quorum rule.

There is nothing in the standing orders which requires the minister to reply unless he so wishes, or even to be present. It was earlier established in the House of Commons of Canada that the time provided for these adjournment debates was strictly limited to the members concerned and that no points of order, matters of privilege or quorum calls could be raised during that time. If the full allotted time is not taken up, the remainder lapses and does not permit the raising of points of order or other matters.

This practice was reinforced by the ruling of the Speaker on April 30, 1964, when he stated, "There can be no point of order or question of privilege raised at this time under the terms of the standing order governing this debate," and by a further ruling on May 15 of the same year, in which the Speaker stated: "I think at this stage I might clear up the point which has just been raised by saying that the period allotted between 10 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. is for the purpose of dealing with three questions raised by three honourable members. If those honourable members do not utilize the full time of 30 minutes, the remaining time lapses. The 30-minute period does not allow for the raising of other points."

Even if the alleged point of order had been a valid one, the precedents make it clear that no point of order is permitted with relation to these adjournment debates.

Consultation has revealed that in the House of Commons of Canada, the maximum attendance during adjournment debates is almost always six: the three members who have given notice and the ministers or their parliamentary assistants, if they wish to respond. In this House, since this procedure was introduced there never has been a quorum.

The member for Sudbury East raised a hypothetical question of what I would do if no opposition members were present in the House on Thursday. Investigation and consultation has indicated that, as in the House of Commons of Canada, as long as there was a quorum the business of the House would proceed. The members are required to attend the service of the House and if they do not do so, it is their responsibility. The Speaker has no authority to adjourn the House as long as there is a quorum.

If one member whose ballot item is to be considered is present, that ballot item would be proceeded with for up to half the available time before six o'clock, after which the House would revert to such other business as the House ordered. If both members whose ballot items are scheduled are absent, then the House would immediately proceed to other business as ordered.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I am sure I speak for my friend the member for Sudbury East in thanking you for your diligence in this matter.

Do I take it that where the late show is concerned, it is a kind of parliamentary no man's land where none of the standing orders applies? Perhaps I will have to read your statement. It is not clear to me.

Hon. Mr. Wells: That is right.

Mr. Conway: The government House leader opines, "That is right." I think the standing committee on procedural affairs or the all-powerful panel of House leaders might in the near future want to consider clarifying that situation because I, like my friend the member for Sudbury East, can imagine that kind of situation might get us all into some difficulty.

Mr. Speaker: Not to prolong the matter but perhaps to clarify it, if my memory serves me correctly the standing order says the House is deemed to have adjourned at 10:30 p.m. and then

carries on with the debate that has been announced previously.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend referring to the all-powerful committee of House leaders. We are anything but that. We sit here merely as servants of the House.

For the information of the members of the House, we discussed this matter today and concluded that, more than anything else, there was a communications breakdown concerned with the matter that occurred and over which this point arose. If the communication as to when the late show was going to occur was transmitted to everyone, I think that what was a problem at that time could be avoided.

Mr. Conway: On that point, if I might finish, could we at least agree publicly now or at a later time that, as a matter of elementary parliamentary courtesy, there will be, if not the minister in question, at least his or her parliamentary assistant so that the debate and the late show—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member may address this at the appropriate time, if he so desires.

RELEASE OF INFORMATION

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a point of privilege with respect to the release of some of the contents of the report of the Commission of Inquiry into Residential Tenancies in today's Toronto Star prior to the report of the commission of inquiry being tabled in the Legislative Assembly.

First, I raise this because we again have a document being released to the public prior to its release to members of the Legislative Assembly, which I understand is required in this case. This makes it very difficult for us to perform our responsibilities.

Second, according to the article in the Toronto Star, the report was released by senior government officials, which leaves one to infer that the release was deliberate.

Third, the senior government officials said the ministry has had a copy of the draft of the report of the commission of inquiry since April 1984. In the House, in response to my question last week, the minister said he had had the report since August 1984. Some clarification is required with respect to that contribution.

Finally, the story in the Toronto Star indicates that the draft report that was shared with the media was 400 pages long, but the report that will be released—I presume that means the report that will be tabled in this assembly—will be much

shorter. In other words, some process of revision is taking place to a commission of inquiry document after it is received by the ministry but before it is tabled in the assembly.

2:10 p.m.

I am afraid these are the conclusions that have to be drawn from the material in the media. It puts us at a terrific disadvantage. We are already receiving inquiries about the contents of a commission of inquiry report that we have not seen. The report deals with very important public policy issues with respect to the future of rent controls: whether exemptions on rent control will continue, whether rent control will continue or whether it will be changed. These are important questions that affect many thousands of people in Ontario.

I would hope the Speaker would inquire as to how and why this happened and invite the minister to clear up some of the contradictions to which I have alluded.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) for raising this matter. As I have ruled before, it is not a matter of privilege, but I suppose it may be construed as a matter of courtesy. I allowed the honourable member to make his point because I think it is something that has been drawn to the attention of various ministers in the past and should be drawn again.

Again I must say the Speaker does not have any jurisdiction or authority to do anything in this matter other than to let the member make his point and perhaps raise the question, if he so desires, during the oral question period.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If the member wishes to raise it during oral questions, the minister may respond.

UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I will try to make my point despite my hoarseness, incurred as a result of the auction at noon hour which was sponsored by your staff. It is unfortunate that only a handful of the members of this Legislature saw fit to come to support us at this auction.

I want to thank those who did come for the bidding on the items. I think we will hear a little later how much money was actually raised. Some members on all sides of the House came out. They were excellent bidders and we certainly want to thank them.

[Later]

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I am sure you and the members of this House will be interested to know that the proceeds from the Legislative Frolic amounted to approximately \$3,000 or, in more specific terms, \$2,902.50, with \$1,902.50 being raised from the auction, \$800 from the raffle and \$200 from the food.

This is about \$1,000 more than was raised last year. I have to thank your staff, the sponsors of this function and all those people who participated and gave very generously of their money to support the United Way.

Mr. Speaker: I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who participated to make this event so successful. Thank you very much.

EMPLOYMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: last week I rose in this House to make some comments about patronage in Ontario. Included in my remarks was a specific reference to the Westcott family.

As a result of those remarks, Mr. Clare Westcott, executive director, Office of the Premier, and executive assistant to the Premier (Mr. Davis), wrote an open letter to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), to certain members of the press and to the leader of the official opposition. He drew attention to what he believed were errors in my comments. It appears that in some part, Mr. Westcott may be correct and I would like to take this opportunity to correct the record.

I mentioned his son, Chris, as being special assistant to the deputy minister. What I meant to say was that Chris was the special assistant to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch), somewhat closer to the office that consumes much of Clare Westcott's time.

In addition, I said his daughter, Diane Westcott, was given a position with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. Mr. Westcott has quite rightly pointed out that Diane Westcott is not his daughter, but rather his daughter-in-law. Therefore, I was in error and I offer my humble apologies for any embarrassment this may have caused Clare Westcott. I cannot believe, however, that Mr. Westcott would take serious offence to my reference to his daughter-in-law being somewhat closer related.

Most important, Mr. Westcott has pointed out that I did not mention his daughter Kathleen, who, as he graciously informed me through his letter to the Treasurer, is employed with the Ontario Lottery Corp. The fact that I did not include another member of the Westcott family

on my list of those who were and are lucky enough to be holding comfortable positions of employment in the Ontario government causes me very great concern. Again, I apologize for this error of omission.

My apologies also go out to the many families in Ontario who tried unsuccessfully for one job with the Ontario government.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much for rising to correct the record. On a more personal note, I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the member for the very valuable contribution he made to the success of the auction, as he always does.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege arising out of the debate on Bill 119 the other night, I want to correct the record. The Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) declared with respect to consultations with the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario that there had been a very full response to their communications to her with respect to that bill.

She said: "There was a very full response to it. It was not on paper; it was on the basis of eyeball-to-eyeball discussion between the minister and the president of ALSBO, between the deputy minister and the executive director, or whatever they call her."

I have in my hand a letter from "whatever they call her."

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I think in actual fact you are not correcting the record; you are raising a point of argument.

Mr. Allen: The record says one thing and the facts of the matter say something else. I am trying to correct the record.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, but you are not correcting your own statement. You are correcting somebody else's.

Mr. Allen: I am correcting the minister's statement.

Mr. Speaker: You are not allowed to do that. Would the member please resume his seat.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: I would ask all honourable members to join with me in welcoming in the Speaker's gallery the mayors, reeves and administrators of northern Ontario who are here today as guests of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché).

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

TAX GRANTS FOR SENIORS

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I would like to inform the honourable members that tomorrow the Ministry of Revenue will commence mailing the second instalment of the 1984 Ontario property tax grant cheques to eligible senior citizens throughout the province.

On August 31, my ministry mailed out some 612,000 application forms for this instalment and by the end of last week this total had risen to 626,000 applications. As of October 23, 563,000, or 90 per cent, of these applications had been returned, of which some 549,000, or 97.5 per cent, have now been fully processed and are ready for payment.

As members will recall, the first instalment of up to \$250 of the property tax grant was received by seniors in May of this year, along with the final \$20 payment of the temporary home heating grant. Altogether, some 577,000 seniors received a total of \$143 million. These recent applications, therefore, determine the amount of the second and final payment owed to each applicant during 1984, which in turn will be the basis for the 1985 interim payments.

As this matter will be of great interest to their constituency offices and to the senior citizens in their ridings, may I remind the members that for seniors who turned 65 in the first half of the year and who did not, therefore, receive the first instalment of the grant, the full year's entitlement to a maximum of \$500 will be issued to them in the form of one cheque. Seniors who have turned 65 in the second half of 1984 will receive an application by January 1985.

I am pleased to report that tomorrow's mailing comprises some 548,000 cheques totalling some \$134 million and that the average value of each cheque is \$244.50. Mailouts will continue on a regular basis until all applications are processed.

As well, my ministry will shortly be sending out the annual sales tax grant to seniors who turned 65 by September. Altogether, \$46 million will be paid in \$50 grants to 920,000 seniors on November 30. Ontario residents turning 65 in October, November and December of 1984 will receive their sales tax grant in January 1985.

2:20 p.m.

As the honourable members are aware, my ministry established a special unit to deal with constituency inquiries about these tax grants. Since the mailout of the applications, this unit has received 551 inquiries, of which only 18 have not been finally resolved. Members will un-

doubtedly be pleased to learn that these totals are significantly lower than those of last year. In fact, I believe the delivery of the Ontario property and sales tax grants has now been refined to the point where both members and their constituents alike agree that there are virtually no problems.

May I again thank the members for the able assistance and co-operation of their constituency offices in the successful administration of this program.

AUTOMOTIVE PARTS
INVESTMENT FUND

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable members know, the auto parts industry is vital to the economy of Ontario. It employs 58,000 of our citizens, many of them in small and medium-sized firms.

Mr. Bradley: And donates a lot to the campaign.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Your campaigns.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: It is a very important industry in your home town.

At the present time some of these companies are being severely tested by rapid changes in consumer preference, new technologies and increased competition. They are faced with the need to boost their productivity, increase quality and reduce production costs. To do so, they need the resources to develop new products, modernize their plants and train their people.

In response I would like to announce today the launching of a \$30-million, three-year program to sharpen the competitive edge of Ontario's auto parts industry. This program, known as the automotive parts investment fund, was first mentioned in the provincial budget of last May. Since then my ministry has worked out the details in consultation with the industry, and the funds have been committed by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. The new fund will help finance product development, plant modernization and manpower training in firms that are themselves prepared to commit resources to becoming more competitive.

While all auto parts manufacturers will be eligible, the focus of the program will be oriented towards small and mid-sized firms. Assistance will be in the form of repayable five-year term loans covering as much as half the cost of an eligible project to a limit of \$750,000 per company over three years.

Projects that bring innovative products and production technologies to Ontario could be

eligible for performance incentives through deferral of principal and waiving of interest up to a maximum of three years. Borrowers may also earn a principal reduction of as much as 15 per cent to offset their costs of manpower retraining associated with the project. A simple and speedy approval and disbursement procedure has been established by my ministry. Applications will be available at our regional offices early in November.

We see this fund as a partnership with the auto parts industry in which public funds will be used as an incentive to obtain commitments from private business. I believe the result will be a series of successful demonstrations of how to modernize this vital sector to face a more competitive environment.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer.

An hon. member: But Andy has not declared yet.

Mr. Peterson: Have you sewn him up or not? Do you need a little more time with him?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes. Wait a minute.

Mr. Peterson: Go ahead.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question, please.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer will be aware that in this House over the past little while we have had many discussions with his colleagues, with the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) with regard to educational funding and the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) about hospital beds and the funding thereof, and on problems with public housing in this province and lack of affordable housing. Municipalities, as I am sure the colleagues of the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) in the gallery will attest, have been under very severe pressure because of the funding levels.

Now we read in this morning's Toronto Star that our triple-A credit rating may be in some jeopardy and that the Treasurer and the Premier (Mr. Davis) were obliged to go to New York to try to salvage that situation. We read about new directives being issued by the Premier to the cabinet about spending programs.

Does it mean that in this province we do not have enough money to address the very critical problems the Treasurer's colleagues are charged with responsibility for?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Peterson: It is obvious from the minister's response that there is a great deal of embarrassment. I quote his colleague, the former Treasurer, who said, "You are a very smart operator, but your first budget was slanted at an election." That is his quote, not mine.

Now, under the former Treasurer's stewardship, the minister is heading supplicant to New York to try to salvage our credit rating, according to the press report and according to the words of the Premier quoted this morning.

Is the Treasurer going to cut back on programs? Is he not going to go ahead with existing programs? Is he going to sacrifice these programs on the altars of Standard and Poor's, and Moody's of New York? Is that the minister's intention?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, in the report in the Toronto Star today, there is a clear indication that a meeting was held in New York between the Treasurer and the Premier and officials of Standard and Poor's. I would like to ask the Treasurer if that meeting took place?

Directly supplementary to that, can he tell us if this quotation is correct, "as part of the understanding" that Ontario's recovery is well under way, now that the triple-A rating is confirmed, did the Premier give assurances in New York "that the province will reduce its yearly deficit sharply"? If that is so, since when does the budget of Ontario get made on Wall Street in response to demands from Standard and Poor's, rather than announced and debated in the Legislature? What kind of a hidden agenda is going here?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the answers are very straightforward. Yes, a meeting occurred in New York, as has been the case in previous years when the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, as a matter of good government, goes to New York to meet with the rating agencies to assure them with regard to our policies.

Other jurisdictions may not take the triple-A credit rating as seriously as we do, but we care a lot about it. Treasurers for as long back as I can remember have gone to New York, usually in the summertime, to meet with the rating agencies. This year I did the same, and because Standard and Poor's had chosen this year to do a review of Canada in total, we thought it was appropriate that we take the extra time, not only to have that meeting which has occurred many times during the summer, but also to review our current plans,

our future plans and exactly where we were at coming out of the recession.

I asked the Premier to join me at that time, simply because I thought it was a matter of good government while they are completing their Canada-wide review.

Secondly, there were no assurances taken to bring the budget down to any numbers such as were suggested in what the member said.

Mr. Rae: I did not suggest any numbers.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There were some numbers in the article.

Mr. Rae: It does not answer my question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am answering the question.

I indicated to the agencies something I have indicated in my budget, in my prebudget statement and in other public statements. I believe it is a mistake for governments to continue to build up their public debt interest year after year. Because of the recession, our public debt interest increased and because interest rates are now higher than they used to be, our public debt increase has been larger than we would have wanted it.

2:30 p.m.

Our public debt interest is now about 12 per cent of our revenues. I indicated to the rating agencies, as I have indicated to the public, that I think we have to stabilize the growth of public debt interest. We indicated quite clearly to the rating agencies, as we indicated in this House—and the member disagreed—that public debt interest growth has to be stabilized and that a lower deficit next year would be appropriate, given the need to stabilize PDI.

That is a government-based decision made long before the last budget and articulated publicly by me many times this year. The visit to New York had nothing whatever to do with any of that.

Mr. Peterson: If what the Treasurer is saying in this House today is true, why is it that a spokesperson in the Ministry of Industry and Trade told us on Tuesday that it is her understanding two programs announced in the budget may not go ahead now because of constraints? Why are we getting different messages from the ministries than we are from the Treasurer in this House?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Talking about being embarrassed, the last time the Leader of the Opposition chose to venture into the field of youth employment he announced, if not in this House at least to the media that our part-time

employment program had been cancelled. He may have been told by now, perhaps by the same researcher who got that information for him from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, that the information was totally wrong. Not only has the part-time employment program not been cancelled, but it has been enriched from \$1.25 an hour to \$4 an hour.

Given the confusion and embarrassment rolling around in the mind of the Leader of the Opposition over his outstanding performance in the polls, which of course he is not at all worried about, perhaps he is concerned and confused about all the information he is getting.

Mr. O'Neil: Your turn may come.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member's information is once again wrong. I say to the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) that the correct information was contained in the Gallup poll printed last Tuesday. That was correct.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The Treasurer is giving us a snow job. He does not tell us that we have a total debt of \$50 billion with Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member please resume his seat? That was not a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition with a new question.

Mr. Peterson: The minister's advisers told him not to behave like that. Why is the Minister of Industry and Trade (F. S. Miller) smiling so much when the Treasurer talks like that? The Treasurer was supposed to be statesmanlike.

Mr. Speaker: Order. A new question, please.

CROWN CORPORATIONS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, we understand. He is under a lot of pressure.

I have a question for the Deputy Premier as the senior minister on the benches today and obviously the most influential. He will be aware that the federal Prime Minister, Mr. Mulroney, and his cabinet have taken it upon themselves in the spirit of freedom of information to reveal the salaries of a number of high-paid officials, directors or presidents of crown corporations, because he believes the public has a right to know the amounts paid to public officials, no matter how exalted.

This government has been notoriously parsimonious in the information it has shared with the taxpayers of this province, having for years rejected freedom of information out of hand in any meaningful form. In fact, it vetoed a

resolution of ours on control of crown corporations that would have given this information.

In the new spirit brought forward by its federal leader, will the government now make public the salaries of the presidents, directors and chief operators of Ontario's crown corporations? Why should that not be public knowledge?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, we have not waited for anyone else to approach this problem. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, in this province we publish in Public Accounts the salaries of all provincial civil servants earning \$40,000 or more per year. It is also my understanding that this does include the salaries of executives in what are referred to as schedule 1 crown agencies.

There are, of course, a number of crown agencies that are not schedule 1. The crown agencies review task force, at present charged with all its other responsibilities, has been asked to include this as part of its review. It will review this whole question of whether it is justified because of previous policy, that is, the arm's length relationship, and whether we can still support that particular approach. Once the Treasurer has the report of the crown agencies review task force, we will be able to respond to this whole question.

Mr. Peterson: Does the minister not personally believe the people have the right to know? Is he not offended that it has to sneak out in a Toronto Star story a week or so ago that the president of the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp. was making \$115,000 when we could not obtain that information? Does it not offend him that his colleagues are not prepared to tell the people of this province, the taxpayers who are hiring him, how much Kirk Foley, the president of the Urban Transportation Development Corp., makes? Does that not offend his own basic sense of justice? Why would he not automatically make that public?

Hon. Mr. Snow: The member cannot even read, for Christ's sake.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the honourable minister was a little carried away there and wants to withdraw that remark.

Hon. Mr. Snow: What remark?

Mr. Speaker: I am not going to repeat it.

Mr. Conway: It was bad enough for the late show, but the question period is supposed to be a family show.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I do not know what the member for Renfrew North would know about families, but in any case I withdraw whatever was offensive.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I hope the member for Renfrew North has not been offended. I ask him just to contain himself.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: We are so often reminded by our friend the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) in a handwringing way not to set a bad example to the young people of this building and this province.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: With due respect to you and the Clerk, you will see that the language of the executive council in public places sets a very poor example to the young people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Now the Deputy Premier.

Hon. Mr. Welch: In replying to the supplementary question of the Leader of the Opposition, I have no difficulty with the whole concept of disclosure. That is not in debate now. I think for the very reason the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, sensitivity to understandings, traditionally in the province it has been the case, against the background of the arm's-length relationships of these other agencies not included in Public Accounts, that is not done. I think the time has come for that to be reviewed. I certainly support this whole concept of disclosure—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. That was a very full answer.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, does the Deputy Premier not agree with Prime Minister Mulroney that the amount of money spent on the salaries and other benefits of chairpersons, presidents and other executive officers of the over 300 crown agencies, boards, commissions and crown corporations of this province is, in his words, "a handsome chunk of money"? Does he not think it is about time the minister made a commitment not merely to review the situation but to publish the salaries and extras all those people receive in those positions before Christmas of this year?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I underline what I have said. The matter is currently under review and will be dealt with as part of the overall agencies review.

I welcome references to my national leader because I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Prime Minister of Canada, who will be leading this country into a new era of optimism and

opportunity. I am glad the member provided me with the opportunity to say so.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: The Deputy Premier should get into the race. Anyone who can talk out of both sides of the mouth like that is better than all of them put together.

I say with great respect to my friend the Deputy Premier that we have heard his reassuring words and his smooth tones on many other occasions, evincing sympathy with points put forward but with absolutely no action coming forward. Therefore, I am not reassured by what he has to say.

Why will he not agree with his federal leader, whom he esteems and believes is going to lead us forward into a new era of optimism? He said access to information and openness means the public having the right to know. He made the point that Conservatives believe one has every right to know. Is it going to take a change of government in this province before the taxpayers are entitled to know what they are paying for?

Hon. Mr. Welch: No.

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to follow the same line of questioning with the Treasurer that we started with, about this meeting that took place in New York with Standard and Poor's and the subsequent document to the cabinet that was released today in the Toronto Star.

I wonder whether the Treasurer is aware of the fact, and I am sure he is, that since 1975 Ontario has added \$800 million to its net public debt. At the same time and during the same years, Ontario Hydro has added \$10 billion to its net public debt; that is \$10 billion, compared with \$800 million.

Given that publicly held debt as a percentage of gross provincial product is lower in 1984-85 than it was in 1975-76, 1976-77, 1977-78 and so on, why it is that the missives and orders going to cabinet are focusing on social services, hospitals and education, leaving out the major villain of the piece in terms of the problem in New York and elsewhere with Ontario's credit rating and debt?

The Treasurer knows—everybody knows; it is an open secret—that Ontario Hydro's borrowing is out of control and that is the problem. Why is there no mention of the real problem in this secret cabinet document, which has now emerged in the papers? Why is he focusing on those who have little means to defend themselves and why is he not going after a powerful institution like Ontario Hydro?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, perhaps one of the reasons the cabinet document that went to ministers on the question of allocations for this year did not refer to Ontario Hydro's borrowing is that our allocations have nothing whatever to do with Hydro's borrowing. That is surely self-evident. If the honourable member wishes to read carefully all the Standard and Poor's documents over the years, he will find that they are concerned with both Hydro's borrowing and the province's net deficit.

He will also find, as he himself has pointed out, that in terms of our debt financing and our deficits, we are in a much stronger position than we have been for a number of years. That is a great credit to those of us on this side who have handled the affairs of this province for some time. We have done that, I might add, in spite of constantly growing pressures from the member and his colleagues to run up the deficit year after year and to increase expenditures.

If the member believes Hydro's spending and borrowing are a problem, the best thing I can do, rather than give him words which he will presume to be self-serving, is to say that he should simply spend some time reading Standard and Poor's reports and Moody's reports and their analysis of Hydro's borrowing and spending patterns. He will find that they have not expressed concern with Hydro's borrowing or spending. They maintain that triple-A credit rating and have not questioned it.

Mr. Rae: If the Treasurer is saying that Ontario Hydro's debt and control of the rest of the public debt in Ontario are not a problem, then he is really saying the trip to New York was purely ceremonial and that using the credit rating is a kind of empty threat to the cabinet and to the public of Ontario. Which is it? He should make up his mind. Is there or is there not a problem? If there is a problem, why does he not deal with the source of the problem, which is Ontario Hydro?

Look back at what Darcy McKeough said in 1975 and in 1976. Look back at what the Treasurer himself said in 1983. It is the total provincial borrowing requirement that has to be taken into account. When one looks at the increase in net public debt, Ontario Hydro at \$10 billion and the rest of public borrowing at \$800 million, what is he talking about? Why does he not deal with the real problem instead of kicking poor people around?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me say quite clearly that we went to New York because we go there every year to keep in touch with the rating agencies so they will understand that while de-

ficit levels appear to be higher in Canada and Ontario than in American states and municipalities, which they also rate, there is a reason our deficits are higher.

I want the member opposite to hear why the deficits are higher. They are higher because we look after the very people the member is standing up and pretending to protect. It is because of the commitment of this government to those people that we do go to those rating agencies, and it is only this government in Canada, outside of Alberta, that has been able to meet those responsibilities without losing its credit rating.

The member opposite would have us do nothing but shovel money out, forget about the credit rating and spend more than \$3 billion in interest. We do not do it that way. He should ask his friends who ran Saskatchewan and those who run Manitoba. They have double-A and double-A-plus credit ratings and they have social services that do not measure anywhere close to Ontario's. We have Canada's leading credit rating; we have Canada's leading social services.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let me tell the Treasurer, whether he knows it or not, that the credit rating is in some jeopardy, just as he is in a considerable amount of jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I am amazed at that explanation of how he borrows, because it is absolutely wrong. If one looks at the reality of Ontario Hydro, which is being looked at, the debt-to-equity ratio is off target, the interest coverage is off target and the cash flow is off target. All that is off target, and I will give the Treasurer the facts if he wants them.

The Treasurer personally is putting this province in a serious problem, and now he is saying: "We are going to cut programs. We are going to be very mean-spirited and tough-minded on the social programs that are necessary." Surely he has a responsibility to face up to the realities of this situation and to cut where it is necessary the waste in Suncor, Ontario Hydro, his advertising programs, the Fahlgren commission, the Minaki Lodges—all the waste of money that is now putting social programs in jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: That is the issue.

Hon. Mr. Snow: There was no question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What was the question?

Mr. Speaker: He did not put a question that I heard.

Mr. Bradley: You are being prompted by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow).

Mr. Speaker: I am not being prompted by anyone.

Mr. Conway: Remember what he did to the Queen, Mr. Speaker. I warned you about that man.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I think I will leave well enough alone on that. I will keep my back to the wall on that one.

The credit rating is obviously something that mesmerizes the Premier (Mr. Davis), although he has been away for such a long time that it is hard to ask him. It also mesmerizes the Treasurer.

Does the Treasurer believe that, this province being as mature as it is and presumably growing up in the financial world, it is appropriate in 1984 for the Premier, according to this article—and the Treasurer did not deny the quotation when I read it to him and asked him; in fact, he did not deal with the question—to let the priorities for our overall social policy, the future of funding for education, social services, housing and the environment be set on Wall Street by Standard and Poor's in a private meeting of the Treasurer, the Premier and whoever the other parties were on the other side, with no public documentation, no public debate and no public recognition of the event that is taking place? Does he really think this is appropriate in 1984?

Will the Treasurer please deal with the problem? One side of government spending, Ontario Hydro, has gone out of control and has simply gone bananas, while the other side has been constantly held back, hindered, cut back and restricted, at least since 1975-76, at the cost of jobs, work and opportunity in Ontario. That is the price we paid for the Treasurer going down on his hands and knees in New York and saying, "Look how great we are, please give us a triple-A rating." We have been crucified on that triple-A rating for 10 years.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is as uneducated and as uninformed a question as I have ever heard put by the member. Every April or May a budget comes down in Ontario; it is set in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and in the cabinet room of this province.

Mr. Foulds: They know more about the Treasurer's next budget than the Treasurer does.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They know more about everything than my friend does.

Mr. Rae: Is this the Premier talking?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Rae: Is this the old Larry or the new Larry, Mr. Speaker?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Foulds: It is the real Larry.

Mr. Rae: There is no real Larry.

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my second question is addressed to the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues. It has to do with the tremendous problem facing men and women, but particularly women, who work part-time.

The Deputy Premier will know that, according to the latest surveys, there are more than 479,000 women who work part-time. He will also know that his government extended prorated benefits to about 8,000 of its employees, of whom about 6,000 are women. That is less than two per cent of the women who are working part-time.

When is he going to take some specific, practical steps to provide insurance benefits, pension benefits and real job security and dignity to those hundreds of thousands of people, especially women, who are working part-time in Ontario's economy? The Deputy Premier knows they have very little protection today. When is he going to move for that 98 per cent that he has done nothing about?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, in responding to what I think is a reasonable and legitimate question about part-time employees in the work force, I have to say that the honourable member knows there was a helpful federal study on the whole area of part-time employment issued several months ago. Indeed, he has been kind enough in his preamble to point out that the government as an employer is itself moving in this area. We have to move to put our own house in order as employers before we start giving consideration to the wider applications.

I think the work place of the future will have increasing opportunities for men and women on a part-time basis, and we are going to have to face up to the rate by which we can make those adjustments. I think we are providing some leadership ourselves. In comparison with other jurisdictions, I would suggest we are providing some very important leadership. Once we have had some experience with it and have taken some further steps within our own operations, that

might be the time to consider its application to the wider community.

Mr. Rae: It is my understanding the bill passed in this House in June dealing with those 8,000 workers in the public sector has yet to be proclaimed. If that is the Deputy Premier's definition of leadership, it is leadership that has yet to be proclaimed and announced.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Specifically dealing with pensions, since that is such an important issue and one that touches so many workers, half the workers in Ontario do not have a private pension at all. How can the Deputy Premier tolerate that kind of situation? In particular, will he bring in a simple amendment to the Employment Standards Act requiring that private pension plans be made available to part-time workers and that all part-time workers be covered in Ontario's economy so far as pensions are concerned? I am sure such an amendment would be passed very quickly.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I cannot add very much to what I have already given in response to the main question. I do not think anyone is arguing with the general principles in terms of the direction that will have to be taken to meet the realities of the work place. We have the benefit of some studies. As members know, Ontario has taken the leadership position in the whole area of pension reform, and I expect there will be even more steps taken. We are quite prepared to be judged on our record as employers and on the leadership which we will continue to provide.

I believe the legislation to which the member made reference is Bill 54. It is my understanding that it will be proclaimed within the next two or three months.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier in his answer has just mentioned that the bill will not be proclaimed for two or three months. In his original answer he said that after it has been proclaimed and after we have looked at how it is working for a while, then perhaps we will get on with the job of trying to expand the benefits to other part-time workers in the province.

Considering that we are talking about 98 per cent who remain without those part-time benefits, let me ask the Deputy Premier whether he would be kind enough to offer those part-time workers his timetable. How much longer after the proclamation of the new benefits arrived at under Bill 54 will it be before this government is prepared to move ahead on those other benefits

for those thousands and thousands of other workers, mainly women, in the province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, by the terms of Bill 54, once it is proclaimed there will be a degree of retroactivity; they can go back and pick up those particular benefits. That has to be taken into account in a new taxation year.

Second, I made reference to the Wallace commission report to the federal government. It is being very actively reviewed in government as to implications for amendments to the Employment Standards Act. Once that investigation is completed, the government will respond about its intentions in what I consider to be a very important area of employment opportunities for many people, mainly part-time workers.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the Deputy Premier whether he is aware that the more than 1,000 Simpsons workers who got their layoff notices in the summer are going to be laid off next week. Some of them who are going to be coming back part-time will have no benefits and will have no access to pension plans. All those things have been terminated and cut off.

Would the minister care to comment briefly on a letter that was sent to the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) by a woman from Brampton, saying:

"Dear Sir: I am a widow." She goes on to describe her situation at Simpsons, and then says: "In past provincial elections, my late husband and I worked for Mr. Davis and his PC party, putting up signs, distributing literature, etc. I did this because I thought his government was decent and compassionate. I thought we had labour laws to protect ordinary working people like myself. I thought that if I worked hard I would be all right. I have been very disillusioned."

Is the Deputy Premier aware what the non-sense of committees and delays in reviews really means to people in their 50s who are trying to work for a living in Ontario? This is the kind of injustice they are facing today.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I know the member would not want to leave the impression of a lack of sensitivity on this side of the House with respect to those situations. The work place as we know it now and as we will continue to know it is going to provide more opportunities for part-time employment. I understand from my colleague the Minister of Labour that the management of the company to which the member made reference has indicated to him that it is seriously considering a plan for the introduction of benefits for its part-time employees.

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Health. I am sure the minister is aware of the polychlorinated biphenyls scare in east London, stemming from the Westinghouse Canada plant and concentrated in Pottersburg Creek and lands adjoining that creek.

Many of my constituents are concerned about the potential danger to their health from the PCBs that have been discovered. To date, the Ministry of the Environment and health consultants of the Ministry of Labour have done very little to allay my constituents' fear for their health. Is the minister prepared to take any action to involve his ministry to allay my constituents' fears for potential health problems?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the problem. I would not necessarily accept the suggestion of the honourable member that the efforts of the Ministry of the Environment and the Ministry of Labour have been ineffective. They may not have allayed all the fears, but there certainly has been a monitoring of the levels of polychlorinated biphenyls in that area. I have had discussions with the public health officials within my ministry, who are of the view that the levels detected are not a threat to human health.

I have also asked these public health officials to be in contact with the local medical officer of health. If in his opinion it is a situation in which there is some justification for a public health study, we would then, on his advice, give some consideration to it. There does not seem to be any reason for us to take that initiative at this time, given the work that is ongoing.

Mr. Van Horne: I am not expressing my own view; I am expressing the views of my constituents and those of many other people, including our local media, who are confused. The Ministry of the Environment has attempted to accommodate the situation, but it has presented a lot of technical jargon that people simply do not understand.

Beyond that, it is my understanding the local medical officer of health will act only on direction from the Minister of Health. Further to that, there has been some indication the medical officer of health should not get involved at this point.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Van Horne: There is a public liaison committee established to try to resolve some of these problems. The main concern the people

have is for their health. Will the minister direct his officials to liaise with that committee to see whether anything can be done to allay that concern about their health?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I have proposed that my staff remain in contact with the local medical officer of health. I do not accept the suggestion, wherever it originated, that the medical officer of health can act in this kind of situation only on direction from me. That clearly is not the case. The medical officer of health has a responsibility to discharge to the community that he or she serves, wherever that may be in Ontario. I will make sure there is communication with the medical officer of health.

It is always possible for confusion to occur, especially with testing of a technical nature, whether it is done by us, the Ministry of the Environment or any other body. Sometimes in this kind of situation it is necessarily technical and can be confusing, especially when there is a particular resident in the community who seems to enjoy adding to the confusion.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. Is he aware that, this morning, representatives of the Ontario Federation of Labour came back to Queen's Park to tell a press conference there had been absolutely no response, written or verbal, from the government to the brief on affirmative action submitted six months ago by the OFL and a large coalition of women, teachers and community groups.

In the light of the government's commitment in the throne speech last March to push municipalities, school boards and crown agencies to set up affirmative action programs, how can the minister justify a total allocation of the ridiculous sum of \$260,000 for all public sector affirmative action programs? That amount was referred to by the president of the OFL, Cliff Pilkey, in his remarks at today's press conference. He said this figure was confirmed by the chief statistician for the women's directorate, Mr. Lou Masurier.

Is the minister aware Mr. Pilkey pointed out that this sum, divided among 838 municipalities, 186 school boards and 229 hospitals, works out to only \$207 each, or roughly 85 cents a worker?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Ms. Bryden: Does the minister think an effective program of affirmative action can be set up with this kind of money?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, there are three or four questions there. I will try to answer them in order.

First, I am aware there was a press conference this morning and I am aware that during that conference some concern was expressed about the fact there was no response to the original meeting that this group had with members of the cabinet, including the Premier (Mr. Davis), some months ago.

I understand from the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) that response is just about completed. In fact, we have here, with one exception, all the details by way of response. I think it should be clearly understood that because of the nature of all the points that had been raised during that discussion, the people who made those representations were entitled to a very detailed response. I think the member will find, once this is sent to the Ontario Federation of Labour, there is a lot of information that will go a long way to satisfying that group with respect to its concerns.

Second, if memory serves me correctly, the member raised some question about the affirmative action program. I should point out that the official of the Ontario women's directorate who is quoted in Mr. Pilkey's statement denies having told either Mr. Pilkey or his advisers that the \$260,000 will be divided among school boards, municipalities and hospitals. That is just not the case.

Third, the incentive fund that was announced in those dollars was the one I announced before the municipalities.

Fourth, one has to be very fair. There is a very solid commitment to affirmative action. I invite the member to tell me about a political jurisdiction anywhere in North America that can match this government's affirmative action program. What we have done to the municipalities and the school boards, and soon will do to other public bodies, is say, "How about emulating what we are doing and we will make some resources available?" Many of these bodies are quite able to do without any incentive funding at all because they are large enough and have personnel people in place.

This province is dedicated and committed to the principle of positive affirmative action and our record shouts results in that connection.

Ms. Bryden: Even if the \$260,000 is for the municipalities only, as the minister led them to believe in his speech last August, it works out to about only \$310 per municipality. Will the minister tell us exactly how many affirmative action programs are now in place in each of the

public sectors mentioned in the throne speech, and in hospitals and in the private sector? Will he table a list of them so we can check to see if they are really effective programs and assess what progress is actually being made by the voluntary approach, instead of saying we have the best program in Canada?

We have to see the figures and the lists of programs now in effect, and I think that may convince the minister that his voluntary approach is simply not working. The recent statistical reports from Statistics Canada and the federal women's bureau indicate there is very little progress being made in closing the wage gap or in overcoming the underrepresentation of women in the work force.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I do not want to be misunderstood. There is a lot more to do. As Minister responsible for Women's Issues, I am not satisfied with the present situation. When we examine the situation though—and I have spent all summer meeting with presidents and chief executive officers in the private sector—one of the problems is we do not have all the information that would show the level of commitment out there.

I was encouraged by an article in this morning's *Globe and Mail* about a speech by the president of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce on this subject. I was impressed by what the Canadian Construction Association and other associations are doing with respect to their manuals and the commitment there is to the full concept of equity in the work place. I do not think anybody argues with that, but people can say, as the member has done, and I would join her, it would be better if it were being done a little more quickly.

3:10 p.m.

We have municipalities with formal affirmative action programs and others who have expressed some interest in these programs and in the funds. We have school boards that are doing it, but not enough. The challenge has now been issued. We do not want to inherit in this jurisdiction the negative impact from the United States with compulsory quotas and reverse discrimination.

This is a positive program of equality of access to the work place and advancement within the work place. I am quite satisfied that nobody has a monopoly on equity and fairness in this regard and that we will see progress being made at a rate that will satisfy us that people are really trying now to implement these programs in a fair way in their places of employment.

PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

Mr. Kennedy: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health, if I can get his attention. It is with respect to the recently announced federal inquiry into the pharmaceutical industry. I understand this is an argument between multinationals and the generic drug companies, and it is claimed it will have an adverse effect and place research and development in jeopardy.

Would the minister comment on that? Is the province proposing to put forward representations to this inquiry?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the issue the honourable member is referring to relates to the question of compulsory licensing, and we are very much aware of that issue at present. In fact, we have set up an interministerial committee to look at the issue from a provincial perspective, including representatives from my ministry and the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

There has been some communication with the federal government. To the best of my knowledge, it would be our intention not to make any formal submission to the inquiry at this point but rather to make our views known at the appropriate time on a government-to-government basis in direct communication with the federal government as opposed to the inquiry officer.

Mr. Kennedy: Does the minister have some concern that there is merit in the claim that this will jeopardize research and development? Generic drugs are a great saving in costs to users.

Hon. Mr. Norton: It certainly is a double-edged sword. I am very much aware of and concerned about the argument that is being made with respect to the impact this is having on research and development. At the same time, I am acutely aware of the impact that the elimination of generic drugs competing in the market could have in drug costs on the consumer in this province, and perhaps even more particularly on our own provincial drug benefit program, which this year alone costs \$280 million within the budget of my ministry. The elimination of competition could escalate those costs quite dramatically.

If I were to accept the argument with respect to research and development, one of the things I would want to have assurances about from the internationals, if I were in the decision-making position—which I am not, of course, because it is ultimately a question to be resolved federally—would be a guarantee from the internationals that the research and development would be done in

this country and not out of this country or offshore.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. In view of the letters and petitions he has received from citizens' organizations and municipal councils, can the minister indicate when the green light will be given to open the 21-bed unit so urgently needed at the Ross Memorial Hospital in Lindsay?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I do not have any date to give the honourable member. The question of allocation with respect to acute, chronic and extended care beds is still very much under consideration by the government. I hope to have an answer to that question in the very near future.

I would hasten to add to the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) that the memo to which he refers has absolutely nothing to do with the issue of allocation.

Mr. Eakins: The minister knows the situation has now reached crisis proportions in many areas of the province, whether it is Metro Toronto, Windsor, Kitchener-Waterloo or Lindsay, and the list goes on. In some areas of the province it takes months to get a chronic care bed, and this is clearly unacceptable. The minister cannot delay presenting some solutions to this problem. We are not talking about a Thom commission or a Fahlgren royal commission, where time does not seem to be the least concern; we are talking about health care and people's lives.

Will the minister tell us he views the situation as an urgent priority? And when—this week, next week, when?—will he present those additional allocations to the House?

An hon. member: Including Georgetown.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Of course.

I am aware there is some backing-up in the acute care system at the present time in the province. There will always be some of that. One can never build perfectly to the optimum level so that there is never a waiting period. There will always be some waiting period with respect to long-term-care accommodation.

I am aware that in some communities the waiting period is becoming unacceptably long. A very high priority on my agenda is to try to address first, at the earliest opportunity, those communities where the waiting period is becoming unacceptably long. Ultimately, I would like to reduce them all to an acceptable level.

ADHERENCE TO MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications regarding the situation involving Mr. Parsons and the leadership campaign of the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller). Can the minister inform the House what his policy is and whether he intends to allow or tolerate Mr. Parsons continuing as chairman of GO Transit while managing the member's campaign?

If he does, does he not think that compromises the independence and integrity of GO Transit and of the position? Why does he not do what the minister himself has done, advise him that if he wants to work on the campaign he should take a leave of absence for the duration of the campaign?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the question was to me regarding my colleague's future as Premier of this province.

I have no concerns whatsoever that for Mr. Parsons to work for my colleague compromises his position in any way.

Mr. Rae: Is there one law for the rich and one for everybody else in the province?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I wish there was one for the leader of the third party.

Mr. Rae: No other public servant can do that.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would like to point out that Mr. Parsons is not a public servant. It is an order in council appointment. He works one or two days per week as chairman of the board. He is not a full-time chairman. He is not a public servant.

Mr. Foulds: You are right. He is not a public servant.

Hon. Mr. Snow: He is a lot more public than the member.

Mr. Speaker: I think the minister has answered the question.

Hon. Mr. Snow: My advice is that he is not in any way outside the guidelines.

Mr. Samis: It is obvious that Mr. Parsons is paid out of the public purse and is the head of a public agency or corporation. Does the minister not think, and will he not suggest to the Premier (Mr. Davis), that a set of guidelines should be introduced for all cabinet ministers re the use of their staff in an election campaign of this sort? Does he not think that would allay any public fears about partisanship and using a public post for a partisan objective?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am sure the Premier is reading Hansard in great detail these days and

will get the honourable member's suggestion. I point out that Mr. Parsons is not a member of my staff. His is an order in council appointment to head a public agency.

Mr. Martel: Why would you fire St. Onge from the Ministry of Northern Affairs? Is he not high enough?

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary, the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway).

Mr. Martel: He is not high enough in the civil service. You fired St. Onge.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Under pressure from you guys.

Mr. Martel: You lied to me. You are a bloody liar.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We never did.

Mr. Martel: I would not mind getting thrown out over this one. He is lying.

Mr. Speaker: Please, the Minister of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Conway: Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I have a final supplementary.

Mr. Speaker: I have recognized you already.

Mr. Martel: We never said a word. Why do you not stand up and make that accusation?

Mr. Speaker: Will the member for Sudbury East—

Mr. Martel: He made an accusation.

Mr. Speaker: You do not have the floor. I have recognized the member for Renfrew North.
3:20 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: the Minister of Northern Affairs has suggested that we in this party made some representation that led to his dismissing a civil servant in Sudbury. I tell the minister that is totally unfounded.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat.

Mr. Martel: Are you prepared to make him withdraw that accusation?

Mr. Speaker: I have not heard anything.

Mr. Martel: I heard it.

Mr. Speaker: I have not.

Mr. Martel: So have all his colleagues.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member please resume his seat. I have not heard it.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, as I read the Ontario Manual of Administration, Mr. Parsons would be a crown employee under the definition as set out in the manual. Can the minister explain how Mr. Parsons is not a crown employee and

therefore can participate so obviously and so blatantly in the partisan affairs of the Progressive Conservative organization?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, the whole reason I say he can participate and is only a part-time employee is based on a ruling we have received through the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet (Mr. McCague), the Attorney General (Mr. McMurty), the Deputy Attorney General and the Civil Service Commission. If the member does not believe any of those, then—

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: There has been a ruling with respect to part-time employees. I think there is a basic rule in the House that if it is referred to by a minister of the crown, that document has to be tabled and we have to see it. Does it apply to every part-time employee in the public service? If it does, that will be of great interest to a great many people in Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

USE OF LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, there have been a number of aspirants to the Conservative leadership speaking this afternoon. In the spirit of fairness, I would like to address a question to the Minister of the Environment, so he might present a little bit of profile for the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Please place your question quickly.

Mr. Elston: I have a question that we have asked on two other occasions pertaining to Victoria Crossing dump. A shopping centre and an apartment complex are to be established there and we have been given assurances before by the Minister of the Environment that there was no need for public meetings because there was no indication of the presence of toxics on that site.

I understand that this morning while they were constructing part of the underground services for that complex, they ran across 16 barrels of unidentified material that could easily be toxic.

Would the minister now provide us with an undertaking to hold a public meeting and a commitment to review completely the ministry's position with respect to this whole development?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the honourable member opposite for his public display of support and confidence. I appreciate that deeply. Any thoughts I might have had with respect to some future activity are completely behind me now as a result of that support. I want him to know that as well.

Let me just clarify for the member for Huron-Bruce that the substances found on the site under excavation consisted of 16 barrels, eight of which were entirely empty. There was nothing whatever in those barrels.

We are now concerning ourselves with a problem that should occupy the intelligence of the second party for a long time to come, I am sure. The other eight barrels contain some sludge-like material that is being analysed by my laboratories at present. Upon finding out what the detail and content of those barrels are, I would be most happy to share that with the members. We simply do not know at this time what it is.

Briefly, with respect to the request for a hearing on the matter, I have not changed my position. I do not feel a hearing is necessary, justified or warranted at this time.

USE OF TIME IN QUESTION PERIOD

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: As members probably know, we have languished through a series of interjections by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier). I think it only appropriate that since we used up two or three minutes of our question period time as a result of the exchanges between him and the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), we should have that time added to the question period.

Mr. Speaker: I totally agree with you, but I do not have the authority to do it.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE

Mr. Kolyn from the standing committee on the administration of justice reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of the Attorney General be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Law officer of the crown program, \$5,055,000; administrative services program, \$73,877,000; guardian and trustee services program, \$10,860,000; crown legal services program, \$29,566,000; legislative counsel services program, \$1,721,000; courts administration program, \$130,407,000; administrative tribunals program, \$14,191,000.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the committee's second report for 1984.

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill without amendments:

Bill Pr25, An Act respecting the Oshawa Young Women's Christian Association.

Your committee begs to report the following bill with a certain amendment:

Bill Pr2, An Act to revive Marquis Video Corporation.

Your committee recommends that the fees, less the actual cost of printing, be remitted on Bill Pr25, An Act respecting the Oshawa Young Women's Christian Association.

Motion agreed to.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Barlow from the standing committee on resources development reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amounts and to defray the expenses of the Ministry of the Environment be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Ministry administration program, \$12,506,600; environmental planning program, \$42,359,300; environmental control program, \$37,065,900; utility planning and operations program, \$217,958,700.

3:30 p.m.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Kerr from the standing committee on social development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments:

Bill 77, An Act respecting the Protection and Well-being of Children and their Families.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Speaker: Shall the bill be ordered for third reading? Agreed.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, that bill is going to committee next week, is it not?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I thought I heard you say the bill was ordered for third reading.

An hon. member: He did.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It did. It went to third reading.

Mr. Speaker: I put the question.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point on order: I was under that assumption, because we had a House leaders' meeting not more than three hours ago—I believe we are talking about the children's legislation—and the agreement was that this was going to be sent to committee and would be debated next Tuesday evening.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend is correct. It should really go to committee of the whole House.

Mr. Speaker: I just want to make the point that I am not aware of any agreements between any of the parties.

Mr. Martel: I should have stood up but I did not catch it. I just assumed it was going there because we agreed on that. I understand the dilemma for you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: What do we do? Back up now?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, with your indulgence, maybe we could back up. That bill should be ordered to committee of the whole House.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

REPRESENTATION AT FUNERAL

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I just wanted to express my appreciation to the Legislative Assembly for sending one representative from each party to the funeral of Grant Notley, the leader of the Alberta NDP, who was killed in a plane crash last Friday.

The gesture was very much appreciated by myself, my caucus, my party and by many people in the province of Alberta. I did want to pass on my appreciation to the Legislative Assembly.

MOTIONS

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon Mr. Wells moved that Mr. Hodgson and Mr. MacQuarrie exchange position in the order of precedence for private members' public business.

Motion agreed to.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Hon Mr. Wells moved that when the House adjourns on Friday, November 9, it stand adjourned until Tuesday, November 13, at 2 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, it is a holiday in the public service on November 12 for the November 11 holiday, so this will mean the House will not meet on Monday, November 12.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carry?

Mr. Nixon: No.

Mr. Speaker: No?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am standing up and I would like to speak on it if I may. I think it is too late for us to do anything about the motion now, but I think it is entirely inappropriate for the government of Ontario to close down on November 12 for, let us say, an exercise of remembrance.

There will be no ceremonies of any kind. It will just be a day when nobody, including ourselves, will be called upon to perform our duties here. All of the other employees of the government will have the day off with pay, which I guess is all right, but I think it is inappropriate in my mind to attach that with a day of remembrance because there will be no association whatsoever.

It is my own feeling that since we have moved in this jurisdiction away from making November 11 a holiday, but stressing in the schools and the community that time be made available for the people to go and undertake some acts of remembrance, the emphasis ought to be that way. In the future, if we have an agreement with our public servants for so many paid holidays per year, then we should associate it with something else. I have no objection to that.

I do not intend to vote against the resolution. I just think it is time we got our business together here. It should not happen again in my view.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I just want clarification. Is the member suggesting that they should not have the holiday in future? As I understand it, they have that by collective agreement.

Mr. Nixon: It should be some other time, such as their birthdays or something else.

Mr. Martel: It should be staggered then. You are saying you can have a staggered vacation—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Nixon: Just before my friend makes this into some sort of a labour dispute, I made it quite

clear that in my view these people have the right to so many paid holidays, including this one. In my view, it should not be associated with November 11—anything else, but not November 11.

Mr. Speaker: I thought that was made very clear.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I appreciate the logic of my friend the House leader for the Liberal Party. I think if he makes the point that he wishes the collective agreement to be changed so that the November holiday that is guaranteed in the collective agreement be attached to some other day, that is all right.

Mr. Nixon: Why should we close down?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: But there was a suggestion that somehow the government was doing something immoral because it was having a holiday on November 11. This is part of the collective agreement, and if the—

Mr. Haggerty: It falls on Sunday, though.

Hon. Mr. Wells: My friend knows that if Christmas falls on a Sunday, Monday is the holiday; there is a holiday in lieu.

Mr. Haggerty: That is by statute.

Hon. Mr. Wells: So is this. This is part of a collective agreement with our employees. If members would like to come here and force the staff of this Legislature and this building to come here so we can meet on that day, I would be happy to consider that. But that was the position we put to the House leaders, and we all agreed it was not a practical position.

I have no quarrel with suggesting that those people who negotiate with the civil servants of this province look at November 11 as a holiday and at whether some other day should be declared a holiday and should be the day they get, or whatever the agreement says. But we do have it now, and the public service of Ontario has a holiday on November 12. Therefore, it is appropriate that we not meet on November 12 rather than bring them all in and force them to work on that day.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

POLITICAL TORTURE

Mr. Renwick moved, seconded by Mr. Di Santo, resolution 37:

That the select committee on the Ombudsman shall, when it considers it necessary, consider,

review, report and recommend to the Legislature on ways in which the assembly can act to oppose and condemn acts of political killings, imprisonment, terror and torture and any other acts which may be included in any covenant or document to which Canada is or may become a signatory; and, in particular, the committee shall have the power to consult with and, if deemed appropriate, establish formal relationships with and provide actual support to government and nongovernmental organizations whose aims and objectives are dedicated to the elimination of the kinds of acts mentioned above. The committee shall further have the power to receive, consider and review specific examples of the kinds of actions herein mentioned and, if deemed advisable, to report thereon to the Legislature with any recommendations for actions which the Legislature might take; and pursuant to the above, the committee shall have the power to sit concurrently with the House at such times as it considers necessary and appropriate.

Mr. Speaker: I would point out to all honourable members that the mover of the motion has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation; other members who wish to participate may have up to 10 minutes. I would also point out that the member may reserve any portion of his time for his windup if he so desires.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak to this motion, which stands in my name but which I believe represents the considered view of all the members of the assembly, as reflected in the special report of the select committee on the Ombudsman.

I placed this resolution in Orders and Notices out of a sense of urgency and a sense of concern that this parliament must deal with the matter that is referred to in the resolution in the way in which the select committee on the Ombudsman has recommended to the assembly.

Members may well recall that on May 29, 1980, in the immediately preceding parliament, with my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) then in the chair, I moved in this assembly:

"That this assembly request the select committee on the Ombudsman to consult with the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists and others, if advisable, with a view to reporting to this assembly on ways in which this assembly may act to make its voice heard against political killings, imprisonment, terror and torture."

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, there was the intervention of an election and a new parliament, and the select committee on the Ombudsman was concerned whether the matters that had been referred to it in the previous parliament could be continued by the select committee appointed in this parliament. That took place by action of this Legislature on October 31, 1981, when the select committee was authorized to complete the work of the predecessor committee. The committee then advised the assembly that it intended to complete the matter and report to the Legislature before the end of the spring sitting.

The committee did report and every member of the assembly did receive the special report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, which was dated April 1, 1983, as the transmittal date to the Speaker of the assembly. On May 17, 1983, the then chairman of the select committee, in introducing the report, moved that it be considered by the assembly and the debate was adjourned, as is the custom of the House, on that date.

At the end of that session, as will be reflected in the journals of the assembly, on December 16, 1983, the matter was ordered to be brought forward on the second sessional day of the fourth session of the 32nd Parliament, which is the session in which we are currently engaged. For reasons I do not understand, the matter was ordered for debate on the evening of April 12, 1984. It was so ordered by the government House leader at that time. On the evening of April 12, again for reasons I do not understand, it was not called for debate, and the House adjourned that evening at 8:49 p.m.

Since that date, the matter has continued in Orders and Notices on each occasion under the heading of "Government Bills and Orders... Committee of the Whole House." In today's Orders and Notices, as has been the case since April 12, 1984, under the item "Committee of the Whole House," there appears, "Motion for adoption of the recommendation contained in the special report of the select committee on the Ombudsman."

Since it did not appear to me that motion was going to be called in the assembly at any time, I thought it was advisable, because of my concern, that the assembly deal with this resolution during this parliament and I specifically placed the recommendation contained in the special report of the select committee on the Ombudsman in Orders and Notices under the ballot item of private members' business today.

I appreciate the courtesy of my colleagues in allowing this debate to continue this afternoon, because I am of the opinion that this matter is one which, as reflected in the report of the committee, is of immense concern to all of us. It has taken a considerable amount of time, with the other duties of the select committee on the Ombudsman, for the matter to be thoroughly reviewed and considered.

I am afraid that if this resolution is not dealt with by the House this afternoon, unanimously, it may well be that during this parliament there will be no other occasion when there will be an opportunity, either during this session or in a subsequent session, if there is one, for us to deal with a matter of immense and continuing importance.

Let me first express my appreciation for the excellent and very fine work accomplished by the select committee of the assembly mirrored in the special report on the resolution I originally introduced. It involved in its deliberations 15 members of the previous parliament and 12 members of this parliament; so we can be certain that 27 of our colleagues, either in this parliament or in the preceding parliament, participated in the discussions that led up to the special report, which as I have said was tabled in this assembly in April 1984.

I want to compliment that committee. I want to express very deep concern and appreciation for the work it did in providing us in such a short compass with a very positively worded report on what this assembly can and should do.

Honourable members may recall that a number of organizations were referred to in my original resolution and that a number of organizations were called by the select committee and invited to attend before the committee and did, in fact, attend and make submissions. The organizations that made submissions to the committee are set forth in the report, and they are as follows:

Amnesty International; the Canadian Parliamentary Helsinki Group; the government of Canada, Department of External Affairs, precisely Ambassador Yvon Beaulne, Canadian ambassador to the Holy See and Canadian representative on the United Nations Human Rights Commission; the International Commission of Jurists (Canadian section); the Interparliamentary Union; the Inter-church Committee on Human Rights in Latin America; the former chairman of the select committee on the Ombudsman and my former colleague, Mr. Patrick D. Lawlor, the former member for Lakeshore; Canon Borden Purcell, the chairman of the

Ontario Human Rights Commission; I myself had an opportunity to be invited and to make a submission to the committee; Professor Walter Tarnopolsky, now a member of the Ontario Court of Appeal and at that time a member of the Canadian Human Rights Commission and Canadian delegate to the United Nations Committee on Human Rights; as well as the Task Force on Churches and Corporate Responsibility.

As members will note from reading the report, without a single exception each of the bodies that appeared before the committee complimented the committee on the task with which it was dealing and the questions each group was being asked to consider. The committee was urged to carry on with its work and to make its recommendations, and no questions were raised with respect to the capacity of this assembly at this time to take the actions that were reflected in the original motion.

The original motion was quite simple: to take whatever action was necessary to make the voice of this assembly heard against those indignities to individuals in the political sense of the term throughout the world. The work of the committee therefore was simply to find the mechanism and the way in which that could be done.

After very careful consideration, the select committee in its report made the recommendation mirrored in the resolution before us today. The language is precisely the same as in the special report, and the action to be taken is set forth in the resolution I have read. I believe the resolution does not need any elaboration by me. It is clear, it is precise and it has the advantage of the explanations that are given in the special report of why that particular recommendation was made by the select committee.

3:50 p.m.

It is my view that if this resolution is passed today by this assembly, as I trust it will be, we will have available to us, as is emphasized throughout the report, under the control of this assembly, a body, the select committee on the Ombudsman, that will be able to make the kinds of connections and communications with other organizations and bodies that are interested in the same areas.

Then we can be seen to stand and to participate in the expression of concern which from time to time, unfortunately, we must make on a concerted basis to make certain that whatever we can do, little as it may be, will be an opportunity for us to express our concern about the kind of evils to which the resolution directs its attention.

Nothing can be more eloquent than the actual explanatory information set forth following the recommendation in the select committee:

"The committee was concerned that the recommendations it proposed to the assembly be more than hollow posturing and pious but ineffective words. For if the resolution of the assembly specifically enjoined the committee to advise it on ways 'to make its voice heard,' the implication was clear that the ultimate objective was not merely the expression of the Legislature's opinion but tangible improvement in the lot of persons whose human and political rights are being involved. In short, the committee seeks results, not gestures.

"After reviewing the evidence presented by individuals and groups with a great deal of experience in cases of political imprisonment, torture and killing, the committee has concluded that the Legislative Assembly of Ontario can indeed be an effective force against these evils."

Then further on:

"Clearly, the passage of a resolution in the Ontario Legislature condemning human rights violations in certain countries will not magically result in the cessation of torture and the release of political prisoners. The evidence is clear, however, that such action is an important element in eventually improving general conditions or righting individual wrongs. Formal steps by the assembly in these matters are particularly significant; the expression of opinion by freely elected and democratically responsive members of the Legislative Assembly is an especially clear and powerful signal of popular concern over human rights violations."

It ended with this ringing declaration:

"The assembly cannot turn its back on the limited yet very real potential to help those suffering from political torture and imprisonment. Truly, in the words of Edmund Burke, 'The only way evil will ever dominate is if good men do nothing.'"

We have the very clear words expressed by the Premier in this assembly on the questions relating to nuclear disarmament and how he saw the importance to the members of this assembly of having an opportunity to express ourselves on matters of universal human concern. On June 10, 1982, he had an opportunity to say, "As human beings and as citizens of the world, we have a responsibility to search our conscience and share with ourselves the things we care about most." On that occasion, he was speaking about nuclear disarmament.

Later, on the occasion of Human Rights Week, the 35th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, in 1983, when he was speaking in the House, the Premier had this to say, "Since then, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights has inspired a number of specific international human rights agreements by which Ontario has consented to be bound, thus demonstrating our province's commitment to strengthening support for equality and fairness at home and abroad." I emphasize the word "abroad."

The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), as reported in the special report, gave the address in the second annual Anatoly Shcharansky lecture in Toronto, when he reaffirmed the government of Ontario's commitment that "we will continue to promote international human rights and at every opportunity we will reaffirm our commitment to individual justice and the rule of law."

Those are very positive commitments on behalf of the government. This is the opportunity for this assembly to make such a commitment as an assembly of elected individuals in our own right, as the body of a democratically elected parliament, on the recommendation of a committee that has thoroughly canvassed and reviewed the concerns that were originally expressed in the resolution in 1980 referring the matter to it in the last parliament.

I urge every one of my colleagues in the assembly to support the resolution today, during this parliament, and something more than four years after the original resolution was unanimously passed, after the work has been done and after a clear-cut recommendation of our own committee has responded to that resolution and reported to the assembly. I look forward to the participation of colleagues from all sides of the House on this question in the remaining minutes of this debate.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): I note that the honourable member has reserved just over two minutes for a wrapup at the end of the debate.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) has brought this resolution forward for debate. Certainly every member of this assembly is against acts of political terror, political killings, torture, etc. We as a Legislature have in the past unanimously condemned some of these acts when the violations of human rights and the violations of political rights were clear. I hope we continue to do so. We should continue to support the United Nations, other international bodies

and the various international agreements on human rights.

I do not differ with the honourable member on the principle of what he is bringing forward or on the principle of endorsing human rights and condemning acts of terror wherever they turn up. Where I do differ with him, with respect, is on the methodology he suggests for this assembly in dealing with these matters.

There are many cases today in the world where the situation is not clear. After all, one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter; one man's prisoner of conscience is another man's criminal; one man's political killing is another man's legitimate execution. There are many allegations around the world concerning many things that are happening today. There are many partisans on both sides of these issues, and many of them live in Ontario.

There is no question that we as individuals should get involved in these matters. Frankly, I take a back seat to no one in this assembly in my personal condemnation of acts of terror and so on. But are we, as the Legislature of Ontario, qualified to get all the evidence on these controversial matters and to sit in judgement?

As an example, we all know about the recent problems in northern India surrounding the Sikh Golden Temple. The Indian government alleges the Sikhs are a bunch of terrorists; the Sikhs allege the Indian government has been engaging in political killings and political murder.

If this is brought to us and we review the matters at Amritsar—if we consider this specific example—we will have many citizens of Ontario, as we have seen in the street demonstrations on both sides, coming before the committee of this assembly. We will, of course, have mass demonstrations in front of our Legislative Building.

But that committee does not have the power to subpoena those who can give us the facts. Can the committee in that situation get at the truth? Can it sit as a court and make the proper judgement in matters as controversial as those?

4 p.m.

We all know about the Aquino killing in the Philippines. Was it a political killing or was it a murder? Can we sit in judgement on that? What if someone brings to the committee the situation in Northern Ireland? The Irish Republican Army, the British army, the Protestant militants—which are the terrorists and which are acting legally and properly? There are the five or six factions in Lebanon. Who are to be supported and who condemned?

In short, in these controversial areas of alleged terrorism, who are the good guys and who are the bad guys? Are we, an assembly in Ontario, qualified in many cases to make the decisions? The members opposite will say: "We will not get into those matters. We will deal only with those matters where the situation is clear."

The report from the Ombudsman's committee, which in many ways was a good one, on page 10 says, "The committee foresees its role consisting of the following: notification from any source, including a member of the Legislative Assembly, of circumstances in the world where it is alleged that human rights and political rights are violated." In that term of reference, in that role of the committee, how can the committee turn down any group of citizens of Ontario that wants to come before that committee and make its allegations?

If allegations of terror were made somewhere else in the world, the committee would have to hear those people because the terms of reference say it must hear every group of citizens. Even if the committee felt the allegation made was not legitimate, it would have to hear it. For instance, if a group came before us to condemn the Afghan guerrillas in that country as terrorists because they are not supporting the Russian invasion, would we hear a group like that condemning the Afghan guerrillas and praising the Soviet occupiers of Afghanistan? That is an extreme example, but it could happen.

Suppose we had a group here discussing El Salvador and Nicaragua. That is a dog's breakfast. How could we get into that? On day one, let us say, when we would deal with Nicaragua, group A would come before us, praise the Sandinista government as a legitimate one to be supported, as it has the popular support of the people, and condemn the Contadora of Nicaragua as a Central Intelligence Agency-Yankee-Imperialist-Fascist terrorist group who should be condemned. Group B would come before the same committee and condemn the government as being a revolutionary one holding power by the gun, by terror and murder, and praising the Contadora as a legitimate government of Nicaragua.

On day two, we might look at El Salvador and group A would condemn the government of El Salvador in exactly the same terms as group B condemned the Sandinistas. They will praise the rebels as legitimate representatives of the people, whereas they condemn the rebels in the other government. Group B, on the other hand, would praise the Duarte government as legitimately

elected and condemn the rebels as Russian-Cuban-Communist terrorists. To those people the situation is simply all black and white—maybe in that situation red and white.

Can we, without the power of subpoena—I am sure no one would suggest the committee go and visit those two countries—as a committee of the Legislature sit in judgement? Can we judge who in El Salvador and who in Nicaragua are the terrorists, who is committing political murder, who is to be condemned and who is to be praised?

That is the problem we have before us. I suggest to the member of Riverdale and other members that any action this Legislature takes has moral suasion only. We certainly do not have any power to affect the actions of any government. We have moral suasion, and moral suasion is valid only when we have the unanimous support of all members of this assembly. There have been times in the past and I hope in the future, when we had the unanimous support of all members of this assembly.

I and every other member would support a motion to support the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights which supported the Geneva Convention, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN declaration condemning torture and a resolution endorsing the Final Act of Helsinki. That kind of motion would get unanimous support from this assembly. That would be helpful, in line with some of those people who came before the committee.

I suggest we continue, as we have done in the past, to bring forward those motions condemning international terrorism, political murder, etc., where we can all agree, as we have done in the past, for example, with the committee we set up on Soviet Jewry. Those things happen, not by a committee of the assembly holding public hearings from partisans on both sides; they happen by quiet consultation, either among the House leaders or members of the assembly of each party who, by consensus, agree that certain acts in the world should be condemned, and by consensus bring a motion to this Legislature. There is unanimous consent to bring the motion and the motion has a lot of suasion.

As an example, last week on an entirely different topic this assembly endorsed the use of heroin for cancer patients. Because it was unanimous, and only because it was unanimous, we hope that will have some suasion on the federal government.

That is what I suggest, rather than have the committee or members of it, because it is an

all-party committee, bring in witnesses, hear all these controversial matters and find the items—there are certainly enough of them in the world—where this assembly can agree. I think this assembly should agree, but without hearing all the partisan representations and without having all the people come before us and, in effect, use our assembly or our select committee on the Ombudsman as a forum to bring forward various grievances from other parts of the world, some of which are legitimate and some of which are not legitimate.

I support the process of expanding that kind of informal consultation process in this assembly, but I cannot support opening up this Legislature as a forum for all the controversial political groups that reside in Ontario and represent so many people around the world to put forward their political views. In those situations, we are not able to get all the facts, we are not able to subpoena and I suggest, with respect, in many of those situations we are not qualified to make proper judgements either pro or con any group that comes before us.

It is valuable that we talk about this in this assembly. I am pleased the member for Riverdale brought it up. The other side of the coin, as I mentioned, shows that there are some serious problems in the methodology the honourable member has suggested and the select committee on the Ombudsman has suggested. I feel we should not adopt that methodology, but should continue to condemn human rights violations in the way we have been doing it, by consent of the members of the assembly.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I recall that as part of his opening remarks the member for Riverdale, who has moved this motion, made the observation that this issue—I believe I am quoting him correctly—is of “immense concern” to all members of this Legislature. I wish it were so. Let us take a look around. Is it really of immense concern?

I would not suggest that there are members of this Legislature who do not have some concern about this, but I would like to suggest that it is so far beyond our experience in most cases and is so far beyond our borders in most cases that we feel it is really not our problem. That is the real concern.

The Canadian Indians had a saying that one cannot understand another man or another woman, one cannot really know what he or she feels, until one walks in his or her shoes. Maybe that is what we need to do. Maybe we need to try to walk in the victim's shoes.

What would it be like if any one of us were in a prison in South America today? Remember that what we are talking about is happening right now. It has happened in the past, but it is happening right now and it will happen tomorrow as well.

What if we were in a prison in South America today and we were asked to swallow some wires with little metal balls on the ends of them—different sizes and different lengths of wires? Even though we were gagging, we would be forced to swallow them and after we finally got them down our captors would turn on the power.

4:10 p.m.

I read an account of that. I read an account of a prisoner who came up from Chile and is living in Toronto today and had had that happen to him. He said, “Your whole body feels as if it is exploding, as if it is literally being torn apart.” We have to walk in somebody else's shoes.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask you to put yourself in a peasant's hut in the Ukraine in 1933. Put yourself in the place of a mother or father in that hut, watching his or her children slowly starve to death, not because of environmental conditions or the famine that was sweeping the country, but because of a deliberate political act of the government of that jurisdiction to starve into submission by forced and deliberate famine the people of the Ukraine. How many died? Three million? Four million? Will we ever know?

I would ask that we put ourselves in a line of women, children and men, young and old, in the death camp of Auschwitz as we march towards the ovens not knowing what is before us. When we get inside those ovens, the doors are clanged shut and the gas comes hissing out. Can we really imagine the terror, the helplessness? Can we really walk in their shoes?

We will put ourselves into an open boat tossing in the South China Sea, packed with 50 or 60 men, women and children—it was intended to hold only eight, nine or 10—forced to flee their homeland of Vietnam because of a political decision of their government. They are passed by, they are raided by pirates, the women are raped, the men are thrown overboard, the children are beaten. Can we walk in their shoes?

We will put ourselves on Korean Airlines flight 007 as it passes over a Russian peninsula and a thud is heard. As the plane starts to break up and decompress, the passengers' bodies are literally torn apart—because of a political decision made in a political jurisdiction.

We will put ourselves in Argentina and try to understand the feelings and walk in the shoes of

the mothers, sisters and sweethearts of the men who are known only as the missing, who have been tortured, killed and buried in some mass grave.

It is all very well for us in this Legislature to talk about jurisdictional rights, the rights of the members of this Legislature; to talk about what we can do and what we cannot do, what we should do and what we should not do. Is that really the issue?

I must admit I am not overly concerned about the mechanics contained in this resolution. I know there has to be a way to do it and I am quite prepared to see the discussion continue if someone can come up with a better way of doing it. I am quite prepared to admit the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) presented some very valid objections that I can agree with and understand, but that does not really solve the problem.

It does not solve the problem of hundreds, thousands and millions of individual human beings in this century who have been tortured, maimed and killed because of a political decision. That is the issue. It is the issue of the sanctity, the sacredness and the integrity of human life, wherever we find it, under whatever jurisdiction.

As members of this Legislature, we do not have the right to go into those other countries and order them to stop, but there is something we can do. We can raise our voices and our objections. With so many others, such as Amnesty International, we can help to put the spotlight on the hellholes, the viciousness, the destructiveness and the callousness towards human life. We can do that.

Whether it is through a committee of the Ombudsman or some other committee of this Legislature is not the real issue or concern. The concern is that we do take opportunities like this to speak out, to say exactly how we feel and what we believe, to speak out in the name of our own people. Can any of us say that in any of our constituencies the people who elected us and whom we represent would not wish us to speak out in this way, to find some way to highlight and put a focus on these atrocities and to join with others who share our revulsion about what is happening? I think not.

I think those who elected us and whom we represent would want us in their names to support the principle behind this resolution and search further, if necessary, for different ways to implement it, to find a way to say that in this

jurisdiction human life is sacred and we will speak out when it is being threatened.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution introduced by the member for Riverdale and I wholeheartedly second it.

I would like to express my views on this subject very briefly. I am glad the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) expressed his feelings in a very emotional way about the subject matter of this resolution. As he said, and as a matter of fact the member for Riverdale also said it in the debate that took place in the Legislature on May 29, 1980, the fact that the select committee on the Ombudsman is the mechanism suggested does not mean this has to be the only mechanism.

It may or may not be the best way to handle this very serious problem, but certainly there must be a mechanism available to this assembly to express its concern, repugnance and disgust about torture, imprisonment and deprivation of life all over the world.

4:20 p.m.

From that perspective, I think we should see that this is a valid resolution. As the member for Riverdale pointed out, the first resolution was debated on May 29, 1980. The select committee on the Ombudsman has been involved at quite some length in discussing this problem, has received a number of delegations and has invited a number of people who have been involved in the human rights field.

The select committee came to the resolution that is reflected verbatim in the motion we are discussing today. There has been a thorough examination of the issue. There is no doubt in my mind it is the right, indeed the responsibility, of this assembly to be involved in this very serious issue. It is our responsibility not only as individuals but also as members of this assembly, as representatives of the people of Ontario.

It has been pointed out before that in the debate that took place on May 29 the present Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) expressed his support for the resolution. The Premier (Mr. Davis), speaking to the House on December 5, 1983, expressed the support of Ontario for equality and fairness at home and abroad. The member for Riverdale underlined the word "abroad." The Attorney General also supported the idea of promoting international human rights at every opportunity when he spoke to the second annual Anatoly Shcharansky lecture in Toronto in 1982.

It has been a tradition in this assembly to pass resolutions dealing with issues that are not strictly within the provincial jurisdiction.

You will remember, Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Legislature Committee for Soviet Jewry, co-chaired by the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) and made up of myself and other members. You will remember that this assembly approved a telegram sent in 1982 on behalf of the committee.

I would like to bring to your attention that this assembly has been involved very recently with issues outside the jurisdiction of this province. On June 5, 1984, the leader of my party moved a motion, seconded by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), that the government of Ontario express to the authorities of the Soviet Union, on behalf of the people of this province, its profound concern for the health and safety of Andrei Sakharov. On June 13, 1984, the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) moved a motion to the effect that the government express its concern to the Polish government on behalf of Polish hunger strikers.

On June 22, 1984, government the House leader moved resolution 7, seconded by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) and the member for York South (Mr. Rae), dealing with the health and safety of Yuri Orlov and Anatoly Shcharansky. These resolutions were passed unanimously by this assembly.

There is no doubt in my mind that we have an obligation as parliamentarians to take a very active role in dealing with the problems of human rights, even if they take place abroad or outside the jurisdiction of Ontario. If this assembly takes the attitude that we all agree on the principle that human rights must be respected in South America, China, Africa or anywhere else, but that we cannot open a process with which we do not have a concern, that is an opinion I cannot share, because I think it is part of the democratic process that in our committees we hear opinions that sometimes are opposite.

Nevertheless, it is up to this assembly and the committees of this assembly to come up with resolutions that are the result of that process. I think it would be very negative if we chose to eliminate areas of contention only because we would see people expressing opposite views coming before the select committee on the Ombudsman or whatever other committee deals with the issue of human rights.

The consensus in a democracy is more valid when it is a learned and informed consensus. We have to go through that process and we go through that process every day. In all our committees we have testimony to this reality when we have an opposing point of view on

many important issues, even issues about which we feel very emotional, such as child abuse, the Workers' Compensation Board, tenants' rights or social assistance programs.

The people who come before the committees do not always express the same points of view. It is up to the legislators in their wisdom to express collectively a consensus that is the result of the information they get through that process.

For that reason, it is important that we as legislators have a mechanism that is not available to us right now. Once in a while we pass resolutions. The member for Riverdale wants us to have a permanent mechanism.

We know very well, and the report was tabled just yesterday by Amnesty International, that this is an ongoing problem, as the member for Kitchener-Wilmot has mentioned. There is torture. Human rights are curbed all over the world. I think we have that responsibility in this assembly, if we agree with the principle, to pass this resolution. We will have rendered better service to ourselves, to the province and to the people with whose problems we are dealing.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I think quite honestly the issue the member for Riverdale has put before us today is one that expresses the concerns each and every one of us as members of a democratic society, and more particularly as members of this Legislature, should be concerned about. It is fair to say the principles of equality and freedom must be ones that are of concern to all of us in this chamber. As the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) said, it was just a few days ago that Amnesty International released its report on its investigations into human rights violations that occurred in 1983.

Further, it was reported in the press that Amnesty International investigated violations in some 118 countries, including cases of systematic torture, unlawful imprisonment, disappearances and ill treatment of prisoners. Its report serves to remind us that all too often those rights and freedoms which we cherish and which we take for granted are routinely ignored and violated in the name of political expediency, repression and tyranny in other parts of the world.

I am sure some members of this House have had the opportunity to review another publication called *Torture in the Eighties*, which Amnesty International released in the spring of this year. In that report, Amnesty International estimated that fully one third of the world's governments have used or tolerated torture or the ill treatment of prisoners. Any member who has read that

report will tell other members that it is nothing less than a litany of horrors, an encyclopaedia of man's inhumanity to man.

4:30 p.m.

There can be no justification for Iran's Evin prison where mothers have been tortured in front of their children, where those who have been tortured have been put on display in front of their families in an effort to have those families persuade the one who has been tortured to confess. There is simply no justification for this practice or for the practices in the Soviet Union of putting prisoners of conscience in psychiatric hospitals and subjecting them to torment caused by the injection of pain-inducing and disorienting drugs.

There is simply no excuse for the systematic use by governments of torture and degradation as a means of maintaining civil order. All the apologies and rationales mustered by those who endorse or tolerate such practices should be and must be dismissed out of hand.

This resolution also calls our attention to another of the evils that has plagued our world of late, namely, political terrorism. It is a sad fact that the level of terrorist violence in the international community is on the rise. Last year, if my figures are correct, 10,159 people were killed as a result of terrorist attacks around the world, more than in any other year since governments began keeping records.

No one in this House or any member of any party would deny that we have a responsibility to oppose these evils, to condemn them and to support, as best we may, efforts to eliminate them. The issue before us is not a question of whether this House has a moral obligation to express its abhorrence of terror and torture, but a question of whether or not the mechanism recommended by our honourable friend is a necessary and appropriate means of making known the views of this assembly on the matters before us.

While I think we all have sympathy for the arguments made by some of our colleagues in support of this resolution, I have some very grave concerns about it. In debating this ballot item, it is important that the two issues of the moral duty and the legality and appropriateness of the measures recommended by the resolution be carefully delineated.

On the one hand, one can accept that members of the Legislature, as citizens of this democratic society I talked about, when committed to the enhancement of and respect for human rights, do have a positive moral duty as individuals to speak

out against any kind of repression or violation of human rights wherever. On the other hand, it may be legitimately argued that the mechanism and procedures urged by the resolution do not provide the most appropriate means for exercising that positive moral duty.

In assessing the resolution, I think the following points have to be considered.

First, constitutionally, international affairs and foreign policy are the responsibility of our federal government. It is generally accepted that the provinces cannot act independently of the government of Canada in this area.

Second, however, other sections of this resolution really concern me more. The resolution would permit the select committee on the Ombudsman to operate independently of this Legislature, in that it would leave it to the discretion of the committee to determine what specific examples of terror, torture and so on it would review and report on, and which governmental and nongovernmental organizations it would establish formal relations with and, in some cases, provide support to.

The resolution reads, "...the committee shall have the power to...provide actual support to government and nongovernmental organizations...." This support would extend to assisting nongovernmental organizations financially or through the secondment of legislative staff.

One might ask whether it is appropriate that a provincial government committee direct limited provincial resources to matters that are primarily a federal responsibility when the Ontario taxpayer is already supporting federal initiatives in this area.

Third, many of the proposals for action made by the select committee in its special report would be more properly undertaken by the Parliament of Canada and the elected members of Parliament.

Fourth, and I guess more important, those of us on the committee are for the most part really rank amateurs. How do we as members of this committee really carry out a proper and thorough investigation of the allegations of torture and political imprisonment? I am afraid a bunch of rank amateurs might do far more harm than good.

Neither our select committee nor the government of Ontario has the resources, the knowledge or the expertise needed to conduct such inquiries in a responsible and credible manner. Nor, we should not forget, does the Ontario government have any legal right to be doing so. As a result, I feel our select committee would be open to

criticisms or charges of irresponsible and ill-informed meddling.

One also must be conscious of the risk that this committee will be manipulated. We are all amateurs, we are all members of a democratic society and we can certainly express our moral concerns. But I believe the last few comments I made about our expertise surely should be very carefully weighed when one looks at whether we should support this resolution.

The Acting Speaker: Member for London North, I would ask you to note the clock. There are about five minutes remaining.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I will attempt to cover at least the salient points of my 10-minute speech in the five minutes I have been allowed.

I would like to commend the member for Riverdale for bringing this issue to the House today. He was very careful, as a good lawyer always is, to lay out the case for us to consider. He spent more than a third of his time reviewing the history of this situation.

I think I will take the liberty as a committee member of filling in the gap, however, on one point on which he did not go into detail, and that is the reason this was not debated on when it appeared on the business paper for Thursday, April 12, 1984.

It is my understanding that the Conservative cabinet was very reluctant to see the issue brought forward and debated as a form of House business in that way at that time, and essentially it was vetoed. However, it is the prerogative of a private member to bring forward resolutions or private members' bills. The member for Riverdale pursued the issue, and here we are today covering what really should have done back in April.

Quite frankly, as a rather new member of the committee, I must confess to not having full knowledge of all the rationale and debate that went on following the resolution that was brought to us in 1980, again by the member for Riverdale.

4:40 p.m.

In the meetings that were held in January 1981 and, I believe, in September 1980, when the committee met with a variety of experts and followed its mandate to consider ways in which it might voice its concern, I note that one of the representatives who came to the committee, Ambassador Yvon Beaulne, made some very good points.

The gentleman I am referring to is the ambassador to the Holy See and Canadian

representative on the United Nations Human Rights Commission. He indicated five ways in which the provincial government can help in matters such as this. He said to the committee:

"It seems to me that provincial governments can help, first, by ensuring compliance with the obligations undertaken internationally. These are obligations of the provincial governments too. So it is important to see that provincial legislation is in conformity with the covenants.

"Second, the provincial governments can help by aiding in the resettlement of refugees.

"Third, provincial governments could help by supporting various initiatives of UNICEF.

"Fourth, when called upon to do so, it would be necessary for provincial governments to acquiesce in the ratification by the federal government of international conventions of importance to everybody.

"Lastly, I think the Ontario government should help by its commitment to human rights and by its actions to strengthen the implementation of human rights."

That makes a lot of sense to me. It does not make a lot of sense to me, if we accept this resolution, that the select committee on the Ombudsman should have the authority to review whatever specific examples it determines are important. It seems much more sensible to me that the reference come from the House.

Going back to April 12, I had the task of trying to convince our caucus that the resolution should be amended to make it palatable. I brought this amendment to our caucus. They were prepared to accept it and I would like to read it into the record:

"The committee shall continue to consider and, if appropriate, report to the assembly on ways in which it may make its voice heard against political killings, imprisonment, terror and torture, and upon reference from the House, shall consider and report to the House upon specific examples of such violations of human and political rights."

It is that kind of resolution that would be acceptable because the initiative would come from the House. I am sorry I cannot accept the resolution as presented by the member for Riverdale. In my view, it takes the authority away from the House.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you. The member for Riverdale has two minutes.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, in speaking to urge my colleagues not to accept the counsel of defeat and lack of courage in supporting this resolution, and I am surprised that two members

of the committee would have disowned the report, I urge every member of the assembly to understand that the report indicates very carefully and very clearly the care and caution that we, as members of the assembly, are entitled to expect from any committee of the assembly engaged in any of the work of the assembly.

It is not going off on a frolic of its own. It is simply saying, and those who vote for the resolution will be saying, the considered report of their own committee about a way in which it can start on the path of providing a continuous forum of interest and concern in these matters is the way we should go.

If members vote against this resolution, they are voting to say this assembly has no voice to express in these matters. Certainly there will be times when it is fashionable, when the media play it right and when it happens that all the members, on odd occasions and on an ad hoc basis, come together. They will vote on odd occasions, as they have done.

The very purpose of the original resolution and the very purpose of this resolution was to get away from that ad hocery and to provide a forum established by this assembly under its control for a continuous participation in a matter of major concern. I am surprised and I regret that the member for Wilson Heights has joined in the votes against this resolution.

ELECTRONIC ACCIDENT PREVENTION SYSTEMS

Mr. Kolyn moved, seconded by Mr. Barlow, resolution 9:

That in recognition of the significant contribution that automatic traffic monitoring devices can make to the safety, efficiency and convenience of vehicular travel in Ontario, and acknowledging the increasing importance of microelectronics technology to the provincial economy, this House recommends the undertaking of a feasibility study of electronic accident prevention systems by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications with input from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, the IDEA Corp. and interested private sector parties in the field of electronic monitoring.

The study should focus on the technical, economic, social and legal aspects of electronic accident prevention systems; it should determine the probable public and private social savings as a result of increased safety and efficiency of vehicular travel, the feasibility of creating an indigenous provincial manufacturing industry

producing automated traffic monitoring systems and an estimate of the projected new employment that would result.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to have the opportunity to have a discussion on my motion to look into the possible benefits of electronic traffic monitoring. I believe what I am proposing is something that has considerable potential to be of great benefit to the people of Ontario. It can help with jobs, it can help make our roads even safer and it can make travel more efficient.

All of us here today who have had the opportunity to travel Ontario's highways must at one time or another have contemplated the huge network of roads which exists to serve our public. Roads, particularly good roads, are essential to our economic wellbeing. The trucking industry in Ontario transports more goods and supplies than railways, buses, pipelines, ships and aircraft combined. People use our roads for every conceivable activity from travelling to work and going shopping to travelling to vacation and recreation areas. Simply put, roads and road travel are important to the lives of all Ontario residents.

Even in large urban areas such as Metropolitan Toronto which have extensive high-quality public transportation systems, roads still provide essential transportation for hundreds of thousands of people every day. The same is true even in the area just outside Toronto. Four million people live in the area extending from Oshawa in the east to Hamilton in the west. In spite of an effective regional transit system, which is currently being expanded, existing roads are in constant heavy use.

There is no doubt in my mind that Ontario is following the proper course in the provision of mass interregional public transport through the GO Transit system. It is neither financially practical nor environmentally desirable simply to widen our existing roads to accommodate the increasing road-travelling population. In many cases, it is not even physically possible. As a result, in the long term there is only one sensible plan of action that we can follow to move large numbers of people safely and efficiently. This plan of action involves action in two separate but complementary areas.

As I have already mentioned, the first is the continued development and use of mass interregional public transport and of municipal public transport systems. There is a great deal of activity already taking place in this area, both by the province and by the municipalities, with much of

this work being shared by the two levels of government. Such examples I can mention are the Toronto Transit Commission's intermediate capacity transit system along the Scarborough corridor, the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Transport Commission's exclusive busway in Ottawa-Carleton and our own GO advanced light rail transit for the Hamilton-to-Oshawa area.

The second area is just as important. This requires us to maximize the safety and efficiency of our road network. In certain parts of the road network, this will mean highway widening and construction, but increasingly I believe this will involve the use of automatic traffic monitoring devices and a freeway traffic management system. If this is the case, it would make good sense for us to encourage the manufacture of automatic traffic monitoring devices here in Ontario. By doing so, not only would our road systems and those who use them benefit from the results, but so would our economy. Our micro-electronics industries would benefit and thereby create jobs.

4:50 p.m.

Depending on the extent to which automatic traffic monitoring devices are installed, vehicle accidents could decrease markedly. This in turn could result in a substantial reduction in the cost of automobile insurance premiums. Over the long term, the public would actually save money on the cost of installing this system. As well, there would be a long-term reduction in the costs of law enforcement and health care related to traffic violations and accidents.

The feasibility study I am proposing would examine the costs and savings resulting from the establishment of automatic traffic monitoring. As I have proposed it, the study should focus on the technical, economic, social and legal aspects of electronic accident prevention systems.

Some degree of electronic traffic control and monitoring in the future is inevitable. The province has freeway traffic control devices in place already, but given the possible extent of their future use, not only here in Ontario but also in other jurisdictions, it is time we gave the subject a serious and detailed examination.

We should look to see what is currently feasible and what likely developments can be expected in this field. We should examine the costs of installing such a system as well as the extent to which it should be installed. At the same time, we must also estimate the savings possible both to the public purse and to the private individual. We must also seriously examine the social and legal and civil liberties aspects of

installing some of the more sophisticated forms of monitoring.

To provide a better perspective, I intend to outline quickly where we stand today on traffic control technology. I will then outline the possible extent to which electronic traffic control can be extended. I hope to point out some possible pitfalls, although I do not intend to make any judgements. I believe any form of severely critical judgement prior to tabling a comprehensive feasibility study would be premature.

Following the successful demonstration of a freeway traffic management system on the eastbound Queen Elizabeth Way in Mississauga, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications has embarked on a program for the implementation and operation of such systems in the major urban centres of Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa.

Freeway traffic management is a concept for managing the traffic flow of those urban freeways which exhibit significant congestion to improve the safety and efficiency of the freeway network under varying road and traffic conditions. The concept is applied through freeway traffic management systems which are electronic traffic monitoring and control systems, largely automatic.

The systems use computers, communications networks, under-pavement vehicle detectors, closed-circuit television, changeable message signs, lane control signs, ramp metering equipment, citizens' band radio and special interfaces with municipal traffic control systems, police and the media.

These systems provide benefit by making the best use of the existing facilities and available capacity. They reduce accidents through early detection and response to incidents and accidents and by advising motorists about conditions ahead. They reduce delay, energy consumption and air pollution, and they encourage the development of high-technology components such as fibre optic communications.

As we can see, there is already a move towards a greater use of high technology in traffic control. In the next few years the plan calls for the implementation of freeway traffic management systems on the Queen Elizabeth Way in the Burlington Skyway corridor, on the Ottawa Queensway and on Highway 401 between Mississauga and Pickering, in addition to expansion of the existing system on the Queen Elizabeth Way in greater Metropolitan Toronto.

Capital funding for this plan is estimated at \$56 million. Planning, study and design work are

well under way for these projects, and construction of a system for the Burlington Skyway corridor has begun. The Burlington Skyway system is expected to be in operation in 1985.

In the longer term, the plan calls for the expansion of the system in the greater Metropolitan Toronto area to include such freeways as highways 403, 427, 409, 400, 404, 410, 407 and the east Metro transportation corridor. Capital funding for this longer-term plan is estimated at \$59 million.

In addition to the capital costs of the system, the annual operating costs for the salaries of operating personnel and operating expenses for servicing, maintenance and spare parts is estimated at 10 per cent of the capital costs. The system will be operated 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and will result in new job opportunities for existing personnel as well as the creation of some new jobs.

What we have heard about today is impressive, but even current technological capabilities are able to surpass these systems, although I am sure at a somewhat greater cost. One example is the pilot project now under way in Hong Kong called electronic road pricing. A report on this first appeared in the *Globe and Mail* on March 29, 1983.

Traffic in Hong Kong, with its huge population and small area, is understandably congested. The electronic road pricing project calls for privately owned cars to be equipped with an electronic number plate, reportedly the size of a videocassette tape. As these private vehicles travel through congested parts of the city, sensors buried in the road would record the time, date and vehicle licence number, and a central computer would bill a vehicle owner accordingly and send out a monthly bill. This system would also be backed up by camera surveillance.

While a full-scale traffic monitoring system in Ontario could have considerably more uses, this example does demonstrate that it is possible to identify individual vehicles passing over or past an electronic sensor. The system is the equivalent of a 24-hour police traffic unit left at a specified intersection or spot along the road.

Taken in this light, enforcement of the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act would be simple and 100 per cent effective at a designated intersection or stretch of highway. As we all know, the Highway Traffic Act exists to provide rules for the safe operation of motor vehicles. As we also know, certain provisions of the act are often disregarded by motorists and these violations often result in traffic accidents.

Even though accidents result from violations, enforcement is often a matter of chance or a matter of laying charges after the accident has taken place. At the same time, enforcement is costly as are ambulance, paramedic and emergency care services.

I believe all members recently received copies of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications annual report for 1983-84. That report shows there were an astounding 771,560 convictions for speeding registered under the Highway Traffic Act last year. That is a staggering amount, and it only includes successful convictions. To be added to that are 3,388 convictions for improper right turns, 12,449 convictions for improper left turns, 48,122 convictions for disobeying red lights and 16,021 convictions for following too closely.

Currently, the law requires that a driver be identified and apprehended for a charge to be laid. The identification of a vehicle involved in an offence currently does not suffice, and that is perhaps the one major reason we have police chases which end in tragedy.

It is my understanding that in the United States the identification of a vehicle is sufficient to lay charges and that it is up to the legal process to determine the identity of the driver if doubt exists. I also understand that police forces here in Ontario may be recommending changes to the law to permit vehicle identification to suffice for charges as part of the inquiry into police chases.

Should such changes in the law be approved, automatic traffic monitoring devices could be used to detect all the violations I mentioned a minute ago. The sophistication of the system could conceivably be increased to even greater levels, such as the detection of stolen or wanted vehicles, although in this instance the feasibility study would have to consider carefully the question of individual rights and intrusion on privacy.

That is a very important consideration, and we should make a clear distinction between safety monitoring and a monitored society.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to wait and hear some comments by the other members.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I am happy to rise and support the resolution.

If the honourable member were really serious about traffic safety, and wanted to move quickly and judiciously to save lives, he might have better spent the time debating the carnage that occurs on our highways because of the use of alcohol and the relationship among alcohol, advertising and the operation of motor vehicles.

5 p.m.

As a matter of fact, these deaths occur not only in automobiles and trucks, which we think of as standard vehicles, but also because of snow-mobiles, boats and all sorts of moving vehicles when alcohol is involved.

Just to give members some statistics, in 1981 nine per cent of the drivers involved in accidents had their ability impaired by alcohol or had been drinking. The really tragic part is that of those involved in fatal accidents, 35.5 per cent fell in the above categories. In the same year, 48.2 per cent of the drivers killed in accidents had their ability impaired by alcohol, and 10.5 per cent had been drinking. In 1982, the figures were 44.2 and 11.7 per cent respectively. Almost 60 per cent of the people involved in fatal accidents had some degree of impairment due to alcohol.

I think every one of us has experienced at some time in our lives a frozen door lock on our car. One of the ways I have found to thaw the lock is to use the warmth of your breath and breathe into the labyrinth of the innards of that lock. If one is persistent enough and does not touch the lips to it and have them frozen also, one can thaw the lock. One can also get a can of antifreeze, which is alcohol, pour it into the lock and it will loosen the tumblers and whatever magical things make the lock work.

We could reverse that situation and have some sort of device whereby the driver, when he returns from the tavern to his or her car, would breathe into a device that would unlock the car and permit the door to open. If the wrong type of breath entered the device, the door would refuse to open or the ignition would refuse to operate.

That would perhaps infringe on a person's human rights, and I would not want to do that. I suggest we reserve it perhaps as a penalty that a judge could impose on a driver who had been convicted of any sort of drinking charge. Any vehicle that person owned, including the second, third, fourth and 10th cars, would be equipped with that device.

We could also have a Star Wars type of computer on the vehicle that would subject such a driver to a skill-testing enterprise before the vehicle would start. If the person was stone cold sober he would be able to operate the skill-testing device; however, if he was impaired, it could be designed so that the vehicle would not start, or would not start for an hour or two, by which time the person could sober up.

I suggest this would be a quick way to get at a good number of the deaths, the tragedy and the fantastic amount of money that is spent cleaning

up accidents, repairing vehicles and taking care of the families who are involved in these situations. I agree with the member that there are many opportunities in the measures he has brought forth.

One of the things we would have to stop and think about is the utter impossibility of doubling or tripling the highways we currently have. I saw one figure, which I think was put out by a construction association, saying that to duplicate the highways we have today in Ontario would cost \$40 billion; that is almost the income of the government for two years.

We must remember that concrete highways have a somewhat limited life; after perhaps 25 or 30 years they have to be replaced. The asphalt covering on roads has to be replaced in five or six years. That is only the cost in dollars.

There is a cost of taking agricultural, industrial, scenic and Niagara Escarpment lands, as an example, or, as we do in so many cases, to choose a valley that has been purposely bypassed by builders. People establishing their homes and businesses might bypass a valley because it was too difficult to build there and yet it forms a great scenic bit of nature within a city. We immediately choose those valleys as a place to put a highway.

When one looks at the lives of the people who are forced to move, give up farms that may have been in the family for generations or whose businesses are upset because of rerouting of highways, there is a great disruption.

I suggest the resolution does address a very important problem. As we grow in numbers of population, have more cars and trucks on the road—and the movement seems to be in favour of trucks—we really need to create a denser traffic pattern. One of the ways to do that is with these electronic devices.

There are things one can think of, such as a wire embedded in the road that would be followed by the car. The car would have an electronic sensor device in it that would match pulsations that came out of the wire and the car could automatically follow that wire. I guess if one lets one's mind wander far enough, one could have that wire sending messages to the car telling it what lay ahead in the way of traffic and road conditions, etc.

One only has to think of the airline industry, how planes are controlled about an airport and how they bring them down through the fog, rain and snow where the pilot does not have sight of the runway until he is about 200 feet from touching the ground, when he takes over. All of

that is done with invisible beams of radio energy that are beamed into the sky and the airplane, through the electronic devices that are on it, follows them.

I think we have seen many of the devices the member speaks of on United States highways. I recall an accident I saw over in Michigan. Two trucks were following one another rather closely, as trucks often do, because these two trucks were from the same company. It happened that the first truck was just a little too high to go through the underpass. The underpasses in Detroit are in the shape of an arch. At the centre of the arch there is a little more clearance.

I suppose the driver was not aware of this. He stuck to the side of the arch. His truck jammed under it and came to an abrupt halt. From 35 or 40 miles an hour, or maybe 50 miles an hour, in just a matter of five or six feet he came to an abrupt halt. Of course the fellow following behind did not have a ghost of a chance of avoiding the accident, turning or putting on his brakes. I do not know what happened, but in any event the cab of the truck was telescoped to no more than two feet across or two feet broad.

There are devices now on overpasses in the US and maybe here in Canada that some time before approaching the overpass tell the driver—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I thank the honourable member.

Mr. McGuigan: I could continue, but members get the drift. I support the member.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to support this resolution, even though it is a little bit convoluted, because I have had a continuing interest in things having to do with automobiles and highways. That is perhaps pretty natural, coming as I do from an area that is dominated by the auto industry.

When I first became a member here, we had a select committee on highway safety. Fred Young chaired that committee and it was kind of the culmination of a lifetime interest for Fred in matters having to do with highway safety. One of the things it did for a beginning member of the Legislature was to get him interested in and aware of how complicated all this really is.

Mr. Stokes: An excellent member he was too.

Mr. Breagh: Yes, Fred Young was respected on all sides as a member who had an issue, such as highway safety, that he had pursued actively and aggressively over a lengthy period of time. He had a kind of a primer course

for all other members on the committee to fill us up with information on highway safety matters.

The resolution points to an area in which I think it is reasonable to say we have just begun to experiment. The technology is certainly in place. Much of what many people interested in highway safety would like to do will probably happen in the next few years. We are aware, for example, that the auto manufacturers have begun to experiment with different techniques for incorporating safety devices in the production of automobiles.

Most modern automobiles have just the front end of the computer industry coming into the function of the automobile itself, so one can buy a car now that has headlights that are sensitized to come on whenever they get into darkness. That darkness may be when the sun goes down or it may be when the car is driven through a tunnel. It takes away a little bit of control from the operator, but it also brings the computer into the automobile industry.

There is that kind of device. There are also devices that attempt to function as a breathalyser technique or as a protection against theft. So we see on most modern production automobiles some indication that there is at least a lot of potential for development along the lines of safety and monitoring devices.

We know that in other parts of the world they take a somewhat different point of view towards violations of the Highway Traffic Act and they monitor traffic electronically. We have the front end of this technique in Ontario now. On the Queensway, for example, we provide motorists with information on electronic scoreboards. At the top of the Don Valley Parkway there is a little electronic radar display to warn if one is driving too fast.

In my view most of these devices are somewhat primitive, so to speak, and most likely will change rather rapidly over the next few years as there is an explosion of information and a greater variety of the use of computers. I think one of the things many of us are coming to as a conclusion in regard to new directions we might take is that the day when one simply built a bigger highway is long gone. For a variety of reasons, in many areas of this province we have exploited that to the hilt. I do not think Highway 401 across the northern part of the city, for example, is liable to get much bigger. It has probably expanded to its logical conclusion.

The building of roads is an expensive proposition. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications has a declining amount of money, it

would appear, to put into road building. So the old-fashioned idea was—

Mr. Stokes: But the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) says he is going to take another look at the Spadina.

Mr. Breugh: Yes, there may be alterations to that. I think most of us who are observers of the field understand we just cannot keep building expressways. Most of us who have had a chance to visit other jurisdictions, most notably American cities, are aware there is an ugly side to highway expansion in that sense.

Most of us who are commuters, as I am, do not really have the opportunity to make use of GO Transit, which functions pretty well right now for those who have nine-to-five jobs, but leaves those of us who sometimes do not get out of this building until after 11 p.m. in the lurch. We are forced to commute on a heavily congested road system and we know things are pretty primitive out there just now.

It does not take very much in the morning, or in the afternoon or the evening for that matter, to see the Don Valley Parkway grind to a dead halt. I am usually in the middle of that, muttering away about what is causing this one. Usually it is the Metro roads people out. They have nice big signs which clog up the road. It would be nice to have a bit of warning that it is going to happen, because there are alternative routes one could take, but one is not aware of it.

Of course, once one gets on an expressway such as the Don Valley or Highway 401, one is on it. There is no getting off until the next exit. We are locked into that system. In many ways the design of our road system is a little primitive. There are certainly techniques available now that would be of some assistance. I think the resolution points out that there may well be in the foreseeable future a variety of things that can be done to ease traffic congestion. It explores some alternatives that are worth exploring. One of these could be making the car driver more sensitive to his surroundings. There are several concepts of changing the speed laws so there is not one posted speed but so that, for example, one could monitor different weather conditions electronically and inform drivers of a variable speed limit.

One could change the traffic flows to get a better use of the same roadway. In many urban environments—for example, in my community, where there is one large production facility—we use this very simple electronic changing so there are designated lanes to take the traffic flow into the one big production facility and, when the

shift changes, to take it out of there. One can use variations on the theme and simply make better use of the traffic facilities that are there.

The resolution does point out that there is potential there, that probably the cars we drive and the roadways we use in the next decade or so will change substantially from the concept we have here. I certainly think an integrated transit system of some kind will be developed, and the beginnings of it are under way now with GO Transit developing a rail system that will move large numbers of people from the commutershed into and out of downtown Toronto. There will be that kind of integrated transportation system, which is what I personally would propose here. There has to be an integration of the traffic patterns; there have to be different modes; there have to be different transportation systems.

There is a lot of potential here for more efficient law enforcement. I am often struck by how crude a system it is to have a Highway Traffic Act with a posted speed and a police officer in a cruiser with a radar gun. Then I see the police officers, for example, jump out into the middle of Highway 401 to flag down cars. That has to be the most insane thing I have ever seen, to have a police officer do that. I do not even like it in an urban setting when the traffic is moving much more slowly; but I see police officers doing what I consider to be not a sane act, jumping out in the middle of Highway 401, where cars are obviously travelling in excess of 100 kilometres per hour, to flag people down. Every once in a while officers do not get them to stop, and they jump into their cruisers and chase them down the road.

There has to be a better way to identify traffic violators. Other jurisdictions use such a device to identify the car and to take away the physical danger of the chase sequence and of an officer having to step out into a heavily travelled roadway to haul somebody down. There is that kind of enforcement potential, which I think would be of assistance to us.

This is the last little area I want to cover. I do not know of any place in the world, frankly, where they have made drivers more sensible people. All of us are expert drivers, those of us who are allowed to have a licence; all of us think we are good, safe, conscientious drivers. But the truth is there are a lot of dumb folks out there who have a driver's licence in their pocket and a pickup truck under them.

I do not know whether we are ever going to get to that point. Maybe with some kind of electronic device one could sensitize a person to see

whether he has an alcohol level that is over the legal limit. I am not sure, though, that we can examine whether he is mad at his wife that morning or whether he is just upset with his place of work that day and is thinking about all of those things instead of what is happening on the road in front of him. In the private sector, many companies are beginning to realize it is pretty expensive not to make the transportation system as safe as possible.

There is considerable potential here. I think during the next decade we will see radical changes in the way we drive, the kinds of cars we drive, the way the highway system is put together and the way the Highway Traffic Act is monitored. Anything that will reduce the carnage on the roadway is, in my view, at least worth exploring. That is basically what the resolution calls for.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. MacQuarrie: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join with the preceding speakers in supporting the resolution put forward by my colleague the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn). He is proposing that we take a long and serious look into a matter that until now has had very little public discussion.

The traffic monitoring and control systems in use in other jurisdictions are varied, and in some cases, quite rudimentary. There is a growing need for such systems and, as a result, there is a potential for Ontario industry to develop and market effective, automatic traffic monitoring systems. As yet, no one else has taken up the development and marketing of a sophisticated, electronic monitoring system on a world scale. But the longer we delay, the smaller is the chance that Ontario can take the lead in developing an indigenous control system in the manufacturing industry. Companies such as Plessey, Philips and Siemens already have the capacity to offer systems on an international scale.

The feasibility study proposed by the member for Lakeshore is an essential first step in assessing the potential of these electronic accident prevention systems.

The names for the systems indicate a great deal about their capabilities. The more common phrases to describe these systems are automatic traffic monitoring, electronic accident prevention, freeway surveillance and control and freeway traffic management systems, which is the term used by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. I am sure there are more, and they are all descriptive of the uses to which

electronic monitoring has been put around the world.

A quick survey of what other jurisdictions have in place in terms of traffic monitoring and control systems might be of assistance. The emphasis on what one wants a system to do seems to distinguish the systems in use in the United States from those in Europe.

In the United States, authorities are moving to freeway monitoring systems to improve the efficiency of existing crowded freeway facilities. Networks in many of the major cities in the US are facing traffic demands exceeding existing roadway capacities. These demands occur during rush hours, weekends, holidays and in areas of road maintenance and construction. Over the last 15 years various transportation departments and agencies in the US have concentrated on developing and implementing traffic monitoring and management operations in order to cope with these problems.

As of 1983, there were 18 freeway surveillance projects in operation throughout the US, with five more under construction and three others planned. In all of Canada there was just one, on the Queen Elizabeth Way in Mississauga. As the member for Lakeshore has already pointed out, systems are now planned for Toronto, Hamilton and Ottawa.

Overall, freeway monitoring systems in North America cover more than 1,000 miles of limited-access highways and something in excess of 100 miles of arterial roadways.

Almost all of the North American projects use magnetic disc, variable message signs to pass roadway information to motorists, although fibre optics technology is also available. It might be noted that fibre optics is a field in which Canada is very much up to date, if not at the leading edge. More than half of these projects have one form or another of ramp metering.

Almost all the projects use inductance loop detectors in the pavement for freeway surveillance. These loops are commonly spaced at approximately half-mile intervals. More than half the projects include closed-circuit television and all but one of the projects use computerized control centres.

I think this description is useful in describing the current state of the art. It clearly shows that there is not one radically different system, better than the rest, installed anywhere in North America.

The rationale for the installation of these systems has tended in the United States to be the need to get the most out of the existing roadway

system. Safety considerations, although they are an important ingredient, have by and large been secondary.

Perhaps the only purely safety application in North America has been on the Sunshine Skyway in St. Petersburg, Florida. It was from this bridge that several vehicles were knocked into the water as a result of the vibration caused by a boat colliding with a pier of the bridge. The motorist warning system that was subsequently installed on the bridge consists of a pier vibration detector that can automatically close four gates and stop traffic on the bridge.

That is essentially the North American situation. When we look at certain European countries such as Britain and the Netherlands, we find the primary justification for traffic management systems tends to be improved safety. The cost-benefit arguments for these systems are made on safety considerations alone, although improved efficiency is also considered to be important.

Glasgow, Scotland, has a centrally integrated traffic control system called Citrac, designed with safety in mind and based on incident detection and response. The system has now been working for four years and includes 100 per cent closed-circuit television coverage of some 27 kilometres of roadways.

The road signs in the system can be used to indicate lane closures, diversions to other lanes, diversions to other roadways and reduced legal speeds in individual lanes.

This system has a large degree of automation and is based on a carefully prepared algorithm which is part of the computer-controlled system. For example, if a lane is closed, the effects on adjacent lanes are computed both at the point of closing and before it as well. The sign system is activated, giving motorists advance warning and preventing secondary accidents.

Holland also has a substantial motorway control and signalling system installed on some 60 kilometres of motorway, and work is likely to proceed on a further 600 kilometres because of the benefits realized on the first installation. Benefits realized have been accident reduction, delay reduction, reduced maintenance costs, reduced police surveillance costs and improved data collection.

From what is happening in North America and Europe, it is clear that traffic monitoring and control systems will be used in increasing numbers in future years.

5:30 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time has expired if he is just finishing a sentence.

Mr. MacQuarrie: We have an opportunity in Ontario.

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, this resolution today is drawn up by a back-bencher on the government side. I suppose he would go to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and have its experts give him some information on it. As members will notice in the next few minutes, I do not have a prepared speech on this matter. I guess it is a make-work project for the back-benchers over there. The Tories have been in power 41 years. If they do not know what to do, they can always bring in a resolution on whatever they hope to get other members interested in.

Mr. Stokes: If they could not do that, they would die of ennui.

Mr. Ruston: Yes. I do not like to be political on private members' day. However, it is a little difficult not to be when the resolution refers to "Transportation and Communications with input from the Ministry of Industry and Trade, BILD...." We have heard of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development from the 1981 election. Then there was the IDEA Corp., which has not had an idea since it was formed. The BILD program was money that was already in the Treasury.

Mr. Samis: They read their polls very well. They do whatever the polls tell them to do.

Mr. Ruston: That is right. The present Premier (Mr. Davis), who is retiring, was a champion of polls and that is how he governed. The BILD program was a real sham; there is no doubt about it. I do not know whether this resolution being put forward by the member for Lakeshore is the same kind of sham.

When one is talking about anything to do with safety on the roads, however, I fully agree, if that is the aim of it and if that is what the end results are. When one thinks about the automobile industry over the past 35 years or 40 years during which some of us have been driving cars, there is certainly—

Mr. Samis: How long?

Mr. Ruston: The member for Cornwall asks me, "How long?" I never give anybody my age. I might say to the member that the first car I drove had three pedals on the floor. One was called the clutch; the one in the centre was the reverse; and the one on the right was the stop.

It was a very interesting thing to be able to stop those cars without stalling the engine. I can recall

driving into the Windsor area when I was about 16 years of age. I came to Tecumseh Boulevard and Howard Avenue, which was the main street at that time and probably the busiest street—and probably still is—with probably the highest accident rate in the city at one time.

I had to stop because there was a stop sign there. Some way or other, I guess I did not push on the brake and the clutch evenly and the car stalled. One was to let it go and the other was to stop it. I had not been driving very long. As I said, I was 16 or 17, but perhaps I did not have a licence or, if I did, I probably had to tell them I was 18 even to get it in those days.

They did not bother you in those days. If you could turn the key on and sit behind the wheel, you generally got a driver's licence. That does go back a little way, I might say to the member for Cornwall. We did eventually get into a little different system of driving.

Speaking of traffic lights, I was told today the first traffic light in Ontario was put in at Bloor and Yonge streets in 1925. That was the installation of the first traffic light in Ontario.

The point I want to get to is that we have not progressed. We have progressed in our cars. We have cars that are very comfortable, economical to drive and have many modern conveniences on them compared to what we used to have. I feel very comfortable in them at all times.

At one time in the hot weather, one had all the windows down. The wind was blowing and one would go home with an earache or something. Now one rolls up the windows, listens to the radio and lets the air conditioner take care of its job. The interesting part is they are finding the car does not use any more gasoline when it is driven with the windows up and the air conditioner on than it does with the windows down and the wind resistance coming in and hitting the car, holding up its progress. These tests were done down in California, and now even most Canadians have air conditioning in their cars. Of course, in the United States they have had it for many years.

The comfort of the automobile has increased, but I do not think we have increased our road safety to the extent we should have. When driving down these massive highways into Toronto and coming to a lineup stretching five to six miles, I have often thought how simple it would be to have a sign up telling people that traffic is blocked ahead. One could then take the first cutoff, go down another street and be gone, but we have never really got into that.

I do not know what is the matter with the people over there. They like to get tax from cars. To take the gasoline tax, just as an aside, in February 1981 before the election was called there was a tax of 19 cents a gallon on gasoline. Today it is 36 cents. That is progress, almost a 100 per cent increase in gasoline tax in three years. That was election year. They called the election for March 19, 1981, and that was the year the Premier's whole campaign was based on keeping the promise. I have never figured out what keeping the promise meant when they raised taxes by almost 100 per cent in three and a half years. That is a promise I do not think I would go to the people with.

My promise would be to lower taxes, especially right now. They are at the point of devastating the economy with the taxes they have. Then they go and buy an oil company for \$650 million. The member for Muskoka, the former Treasurer, who is running today for the leadership, did not have the guts to resign when the Premier told him to buy it and he did not want to. That is the kind of politician they have, the great managers of the economy. They cannot manage an outhouse. I would not even hire them to go around and inspect the corn in Essex county to see if there were any corn borers in the cornstalks.

Mr. Samis: Do not forget he is a car dealer too.

Mr. Ruston: I have quite a bit of respect for car dealers. After all, at one time for a few months, so I would not be doing anything illegal, I even had a licence to sell cars as a temporary job to assist a friend of mine to go on a little vacation.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Did you sell any?

Mr. Ruston: I sold a few. I was doing it for free, but I helped him out some.

Mr. Speaker, they are getting me sidetracked here. I have a lot of good notes here I want to use.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: You have only two minutes to use them.

Mr. Ruston: The government is doing something. I told the then Minister of Highways a number of years ago, and I spent many hours in that ministry—at one time it was called the Ministry of Highways and then to make it sound more important it was called the Ministry of Transportation and Communications—about putting lane markers on the highways, but he always said they were built into the pavement and that could not be done because of snowploughing.

I see in reports lately they are now going to try them in Ontario. If you have travelled in some of the southern states where they use them, you certainly know when you are crossing from one lane into another. They bump the car and you know something is wrong. I sometimes wondered if they protected you from dozing off; if the car hit one of them, you would wake up in a hurry.

There are many things we could be using.

Mr. Haggerty: What about the poor condition of the roads?

Mr. Ruston: There is another thing. The highways are getting in such terrible condition. I think 60 per cent of the municipal and local roads are badly in need of repair. I understand the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) is having trouble getting money out of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) for the highways, but he certainly gets money out of the gasoline tax.

5:40 p.m.

There are many things that could be put in cars and trucks to increase their safety. One of the things I have noticed about trucks in the past few years is the number of accidents involving trucks going at too high speeds around the cloverleafs and going off the ramps into other streets and so forth. I was told by one of our members a few years ago that when one comes off the Highway 400 lane from Barrie on to Highway 401, there is a flashing light up on the highway indicating if one is going too fast.

I have used up my time. I did not go fast enough to get into the gist of what I wanted to talk about. However, I will support the resolution because I think it has a good intent.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to follow my colleague. I have three minutes; this is almost impossible but I will support the resolution. It is well intended. Anything that helps reduce the number of accidents and damage on our highways is worth investigating. This resolution is for a feasibility report.

Members should be aware of the fact that there has been a downward trend in accidents and injuries in automobiles on Ontario highways in the past couple of years, which is very encouraging. The number of accidents and fatalities has been declining. There is a variety of reasons for that. Obviously, the economy would be one. Also, the cost of gasoline has reduced the mileage being chalked up by Ontario motorists.

One area that stands out in my mind that needs attention—I keep bringing this to the attention of the minister—is the question of motorcycle accidents on our highways. The number of fatalities and serious accidents in the past three years has continued to increase steadily. I do not think the ministry has taken enough drastic action to cope with that. The ministry has investigated and studied it, and it has changed some of the testing, but I do not think these devices would add to the solution of the problem. We have to look at the motorcyclists themselves, and motorcycles have to be investigated in great depth.

Second, we should take another look at the minimum age for driving. At what age should a person be allowed to drive in this province? Is 16 sacrosanct? We have raised the drinking age to 19. The voting age, the age of majority, is 18. Is 16 sacrosanct, especially in view of an urban society with the types of vehicles we have there?

One of my colleagues has mentioned the excessive use of alcohol in society and how that is related to accidents, and he brought up the question of advertising. I agree with him wholeheartedly. We have to take a much tougher stand on the question of lifestyle advertising in this province. We are at the stage now when it is hard to find a liquor or beer ad that is not lifestyle-oriented.

Another thing I would raise for the consideration of the member is that the budget allotted for roads and highways in this province is at its lowest stage in 25 years as a percentage of the total budget. When we talk about accidents and safety, we have to consider the government's record on how much money it is prepared to put into highways and roads.

Another issue the ministry should look at is the question of air bags in cars which would add to safety. The ministry has not taken a very strong stand.

If we are talking about research and development in Ontario, it is time the Urban Transportation Development Corp. got off its obsession with the intermediate capacity transit system and exotic technology and got down to the basics of technology.

Another thing we should consider is the question of rest areas on the superhighways.

I would like to go into much more detail on each of those points, but obviously time does not allow me.

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the member for Carleton East (Mr. MacQuarrie) for his active participation in support of this resolution. I would also like to

thank the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow), who was very supportive, but unfortunately because of time limitations he did not have a chance to expand on some of the possibilities of what we are talking about.

This is a timely issue. With the support of all the members, we can get a feasibility study in the future and it might have some great possibilities for Ontario in the road system as well as in new job creation projects.

I would like to thank everybody associated with helping me on this project. I did not mention to the members that I did not talk to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications about this subject. This was brought to me by people in the private sector who are in electronics. A lot of people in the private sector feel there is tremendous potential for us here in industry. I want to thank all the members who are going to support the motion.

The Deputy Speaker: I remind the member that if he wishes to make any further comment, there is some extra time on the clock.

Mr. Kolyn: I think, Mr. Speaker, I have pretty well wrapped it up. I do not want to get into anything more specific, because time would not permit us to get into much more detail than we have already.

Mr. Breagh: What you mean is you are out of gas.

Mr. Kolyn: Not really.

The Deputy Speaker: Did the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) wish to add any comments? We can have debate for another five minutes.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, it would be superfluous after what I said.

The Deputy Speaker: Do any other members wish to participate in this debate?

Mr. Breagh: No, I guess not.

The Deputy Speaker: The rules do not permit us to vote until 5:50 p.m.

Mr. Breagh: Can we have unanimous consent to hold the votes now?

The Deputy Speaker: Do we have unanimous consent to hold the votes now as opposed to the time specified in the standing orders?

Some hon. members: No.

The Deputy Speaker: No? We have to have unanimous consent. The clock will run until 5:50 p.m.

5:50 p.m.

POLITICAL TORTURE

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on resolution 37:

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Eaton, Eves, Gillies, Gordon, Johnson, J. M., Leluk, McCague, McNeil, Mitchell, Ramsay, Rotenberg, Sheppard, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Treleaven, Wells, Williams—23.

ELECTRONIC ACCIDENT PREVENTION SYSTEMS

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Robinson): Mr. Kolyn has moved resolution 9.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I will indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

Tonight we will debate the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs. After the report is finished, we will revert to the budget debate. The member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) is again going to be holding forth.

Tomorrow morning and Monday afternoon, October 29, the House will deal with the estimates of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics.

On Tuesday afternoon, October 30, in committee of the whole, we will deal with Bill 101. On Tuesday evening, in committee of the whole, we will deal with Bill 77, and if time permits, we will do second reading of Bill 93.

On Wednesday, October 31, the usual three committees may meet.

On Thursday afternoon, November 1, there will be private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) and the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke). On Thursday evening, there will second reading and committee of the whole on Bills 58 and 102. Then we have tentatively scheduled second reading of Bills 82 and 17.

On Friday, November 2, we will again deal with the estimates of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics.

The House recessed at 5:55 p.m.

ERRATUM

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No. 101

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, October 25, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

REPORT, STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS (concluded)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs on standing orders and procedure (No. 3).

Mr. Treleaven: Mr. Speaker, when I adjourned this on June 21, little did I believe we would be back here in three months to debate it. It is an indication of the importance of this report that it is being debated so quickly after it was first introduced to the House. I am certain the level and length of debate will reflect this importance as well.

First, may I say I agree with the five points in the summary. In essence, the standing committee on procedural affairs concluded that the committees of this House are creatures of the Legislature and must report first to the Legislature. To release a report before that time is unethical and a contempt of the Legislature.

I expected my friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) to be here and I had some comments to make on a subject brought up by him. The procedural affairs committee is a consensus committee rather than a voting committee. My friend from Oshawa brought to the committee's attention last June the tendency of the committee to meet in camera rather than on public record with Hansard.

I did wish to refer to this as far as the procedural affairs committee is concerned. Being a consensus committee, very often when we meet in camera, positions are put forward by various members playing devil's advocate, perhaps putting an extreme position to try to get others to go with them or perhaps just flying a flag. Usually, being a consensus committee, we end up compromising. We almost always compromise.

When we are in camera, it is very easy for a member to compromise and retreat from his former position. If we were on Hansard, we would get stuck in extreme positions and we would have great difficulty and perhaps would end up becoming a voting committee. It is,

therefore, my contention that often in a consensus committee such as ours we should be in camera when framing a report. Perhaps my friend from Oshawa will have some comments to make on that.

That is all I have to say on this report. The presentation of reports to the media and how they are released to the media and discussed by the media, I will leave to others.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome you back. I must tell you we missed you this afternoon. I am sure you were away on very pressing government business. It is good to see you back. I must say the member for Scarborough-Ellesmere (Mr. Robinson) did a most commendable job in your absence and there was no difficulty continuing the business of the House, despite the fact that you probably would have liked to have felt we had to recess this House in your absence. Nevertheless, that did not occur. Business went on as usual. It is good to see you back.

I am pleased to be able to speak to this report. As a member of this committee for about three and half years, I find this is one of the shortest reports we have had, although it is an important report. As the chairman, the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven), has indicated, it deals with the procedures regarding reports from committees.

The fact this report even has to be discussed is somewhat surprising to me because I would think members of the House, all 125 of them, being mature, intelligent individuals—and I say that with all the respect I can muster—should know that if a committee has its dealings or its debates in camera, then those discussions should stay private, should stay in that particular room until it reports to the House.

I could see an exception being made if members had discussions in camera and, after some discussion within the committee itself, they felt it was necessary to make those discussions or their conclusions, their recommendations, public prior to being able to report back to the House, particularly if the House is in a state of recess so they would not have an opportunity to report back for another month or two. I could see exceptions being made then, but those excep-

tions should be arrived at only after the committee has had a chance to discuss them.

I find it somewhat surprising that members—and I lay no blame on any particular side of the House—would give information out to the media, either in printed reports or just through telephone calls or a “but do not quote me” type of thing. It is okay if the media can quote an unnamed source. They give this information out as to the conclusions and the discussions in a committee. As members know, these recommendations were made only after we had instances in this House where information was leaked to the media, either in full reports or in part from discussions that were held in camera.

I say I find it somewhat difficult to understand why people would do that, but I suppose they have their own agenda and have their own reasons for doing it. I would hope this report would draw to their attention how their colleagues expect them to act in the future.

I leave it at that. I think the report speaks for itself. I endorse the five recommendations that are presented on page 4 of the third report and I hope in the future we will not encounter any lapses by members of this Legislature in giving information out.

I might just add that on occasions when information was given out, I think it was given out by members of the Legislature. I do not think we could hide behind the fact it was given out by the staff. I trust the staff would keep information private and confidential. I think where it has been given out, someone in the Legislature has felt it was to his or her advantage to give it out. I do not think in any instance it was given out by the staff, at least not without permission from some elected official.

8:10 p.m.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a few minutes to speak on this report from the standing committee on procedural affairs. I was not a member of the committee last spring when it dealt with this matter, although I was a member of that committee for about five years and am now again a member of that committee. This is an issue that concerns all of us, but judging from the comments I have heard around the halls over the course of the last two or three days it is an issue that many members take far too lightly.

This matter was referred by the House to the procedural affairs committee because it is a very serious matter. As my colleague the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) mentioned in his comments a few moments ago, in the spring of

this year we had three instances where committee reports that were finalized in camera were released in part or in whole before those reports were tabled in this Legislature.

There are a number of reasons why the in-camera procedure exists and why the precedents around this place are to keep that confidentiality until such time as a report is tabled in the House. In the three instances we had, fortunately, some personal embarrassment was the only visible result. We did not have any serious catastrophes.

As the Speaker is well aware, the procedures in our committees in the developing of reports to this Legislature often deal with matters, as does the budget and other things around here, that can have an impact out there in the real world if they are dealt with inappropriately; in this case, inappropriate being the release of a document before everybody has equal access to it at the same time. There is the potential to create serious problems both for individuals and for the community in this province as a whole.

That makes this a very important issue. We may abuse the rules of confidentiality for committee reports umpteen times and get away with it, and manage to avoid causing any serious harm, but there is the potential for the one time when the premature release of a committee report and the information in that report could do serious damage if it happened to be a report on tax issues or something such as that.

For example, we had a precedent-setting situation about two years ago when, after the budget, for the first time to the best of my knowledge we had a budget matter, a tax bill, referred to a standing committee for consideration and public input. As we all know, in the case of tax matters confidentiality is crucial up to the point where something is going to transpire, so that no one can gain an advantage as a result of prior knowledge of the matter in question.

We will continue to have matters such as this and others considered before the standing committees of this Legislature, so it becomes imperative that we understand the whole question of respecting the procedures, the procedures in this case being that if the committee decides it is going to deal with its report and the recommendations in its report in camera, the committee has reasons for that. The reasons are not that the matter should not become public; the reasons are that the matter should become public here in this House so that everybody has access to the information at the same time, so that the members of this House are all aware of the report

at the same time, and so that the movement of information out into the public domain outside of this legislative structure occurs in an orderly and acceptable way.

As my colleague the member for Waterloo North did before me and as the chairman of the committee expressed in his remarks, I support and I think the members in my caucus support the five recommendations set out in the summary of this report.

I will pick up on another issue the member for Waterloo North mentioned, and that is the situation where there can be exceptions. I do not think anybody objects to exceptions. We have any number of procedures here in this House for exceptions, to change the rules by unanimous consent, to do any number of things that seem appropriate at the time, but as long as those changes are made with the consent of everyone then the exception is an acceptable route to go.

Exceptions can arise in the case of committee reports. The member for Waterloo North mentioned the situation where a committee may be making a report and recommendations of a very important and perhaps urgent nature at a time when the Legislature is not in session. That committee has two choices in a case like that. It either deals with the writing of its report and its recommendations in public, which obviously would then automatically put that report and those recommendations on the public record—on Hansard and hence on the public record—or the committee as a whole can discuss and make a decision about the release of its report.

Unfortunately, in the three situations we had last year the matter was not a matter that was discussed and decided by the committees in question; it was a matter of perhaps inadvertent and perhaps intentional leaks of parts—and substantial parts in some cases—of committee reports that the committee intended should remain confidential until they were tabled here in this House.

This is very important. You, Mr. Speaker, are probably more aware than anyone else of the very partisan nature of this institution which we are a part of here. We have three political parties, and you know all too well that the debates in this institution become very partisan.

Mr. Nixon: Does the member have two hours left?

Mr. Charlton: Oh, perhaps.

Mr. Swart: Is the member afraid that he will not get on, on this very important subject.?

Mr. Nixon: No, I think the fix is in here.

Mr. Charlton: I can assure the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) I will not speak for two hours. If he wishes an opportunity to speak on this report he will have plenty of time to do so. As a matter of fact, I am coming very close to the end of my remarks.

Mr. Nixon: I like listening to you, but I think this subject—

Mr. Charlton: Now the member has broken my train of thought and I may have to start all over.

Mr. Nixon: Okay. Start at the beginning.

The Deputy Speaker: I wonder if the members could leave the speaker alone, please.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Charlton: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I was discussing the situations we had last winter and spring with the premature release of reports, and the fact that the release of those documents was clearly against the wish of the committee that had developed the report and the recommendations. That is the essence of the problem with which we are faced and the problem that resulted in this report.

I have no objection to any committee, even if it should develop its report and recommendations in camera for whatever reason, releasing its report before tabling it in this House, on the decision of the committee. In the same way this House makes exceptions to its rules, if there is reasonable cause to make an exception in the case of a committee report, I find nothing wrong with that, as long as it is a decision of the committee which has developed the report and is holding it for tabling in this place.

What we found, and I think this is where I was when I was interrupted, was the very partisan nature of this institution. What we find happening and what we have to avoid is the partisan use of committee reports by leaking parts of them to the media or to particular groups in the community against the wishes of the committee.

It is very clear that there is in any case, around any report, full opportunity for all the partisan political points to be made, pro and con, when the report is tabled and when the report is made public for everybody. To allow an individual or individuals to take political advantage of the work of a committee of this Legislature, presumably in an effort to gain some personal political advantage, is not an acceptable procedure for us to allow to continue.

It is imperative that in any political arena, political advantage and political points come from the work and research that is done and the

effort that is put into making a point and exposing the shortcomings of others. It does not come from taking undue advantage of a committee that has decided in its wisdom on a certain procedure and violating that procedure in order to gain some advantage of time and individual focus.

For all those reasons and for the reasons I have set out before, we are in a position where I think we have no choice but to support this third report on the standing orders and procedure from the procedural affairs committee, not only to support it but also to get through to our fellow members the importance of the procedures we have around this place and the importance of ensuring we all live up to them to the best of our abilities.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, this report is one of the shortest that has been presented by the procedural affairs committee to the House. I think the summary is almost as long as the report; however, that does not mean it is not a very important report. In fact, sometimes brevity is something to be admired in a report; it brings the issue sharply into focus.

There really are two issues in this report. One is the basic question of whether committee reports should be written in public or in camera. While the committee was not asked to discuss this particular aspect, it is actually part of the general discussion of whether, when reports are written in camera, they should be released before they are presented to the Legislature.

Regarding the question of whether reports should be written in public, there are various arguments in favour of it, such as the argument that the discussion should be open to the public since it is equally important to decide what should go into a report as it is to discuss the issues dealt with by the committee. The issues raised in the hearings are of interest to the public, but the issue of what goes into the report is also of public interest. Therefore, I think there are a lot of strong arguments for suggesting that committees should not write reports in camera.

Of course, the arguments against the public writing of reports are that it may be difficult to arrive at the compromises that are sometimes considered desirable in the interests of reaching a unanimous or a consensual report. When there is a unanimous or consensual report, that probably gives the report greater clout. It is more likely to attract the attention of the government if it feels there is unanimous committee feeling on the subject and if committee recommendations are unanimous.

How to reconcile the desirability of reaching consensus with the desirability of letting the

public know what the committee considered important to put in or leave out is a real problem. A further problem is that if there is report writing in public, the members have to stand up and defend their positions in public, and this sometimes takes courage on controversial issues.

However, I think that on balance there are more advantages to resisting the trend towards conducting public business in camera, and I would support more public writing of reports and only in very rare occasions in camera writing.

But if we do accept that some reports will be written in camera, then I think we have to decide the question of whether there should be any release of reports or of draft reports before their presentation to the Legislature.

It is sometimes argued that a draft report should be released so the public can have another crack at commenting on the conclusions that the committee appears to be coming to. There may be some circumstances in which this might be considered if it was made very clear that it was only a draft report that was being put forward for further comment. But if it is the final report, I think the principle enunciated by May is the correct one, namely, "Any publication of a draft report which has been submitted to a committee before such report has been agreed to by the committee and presented to the House is treated as a breach of privilege."

In effect, May points out that it is an ancient custom of parliament that "No act done in any committee should be divulged before the same be reported to the House." I think we do have to stand up and defend the rights of parliament and of the Legislature to see reports first and not permit them to be released for any political or public relations reasons before their presentation in the House.

8:30 p.m.

Therefore, my colleagues and I support this report quite strongly, but I would like to see much less use of in camera writing of reports.

Mr. Breagh: I just want to make a few brief introductory remarks on what has actually turned out to be rather a topical committee report on disclosure. This morning's newspapers had two head stories that were based on the concept that others were getting information. In these two instances today, one on a royal commission and another on the preparation of the budget, information was disclosed in the public press prior to its being revealed to the members here.

The purpose of this report was to address ourselves to something that had started to become a bit of a phenomenon; and that is that

committees were doing work and preparing reports, but then there seemed to be some confusion in the minds of members about whether they had any obligation to report the findings to the Legislature or whether they were free to go downstairs in some cases and have press conferences or do press releases or just have members talk to people in the media about the work of the committee.

By and large, since I have been a member here, no one in this Legislature gets very excited about those kinds of premature disclosures. It happens in a bit of an offhand way. We are not nearly as rigid in this Legislature about this kind of disclosure as they would be, say, at Westminster where it is considered to be sacrosanct—and I at least see some sense behind it—that the rights of Parliament override every other consideration.

I recall the last time I was at Westminster one of the members had released prematurely a report which had been done in committee. There were howls from members from all sides of Parliament that the member had to resign his seat. They considered it to be a very serious breach of the privileges of Parliament itself and that the member had acted, not just incorrectly, but in a way that showed a great deal of contempt for the parliamentary process and in a way that was deemed there to be in violation of his oath of office. There were some pretty serious ramifications about that.

This report attempts to deal with it in not quite such a strict and harsh light, but to attempt gently to remind the members here that the same rules do apply here. In fact, when one is working in committee, and I would extend that a little bit and say when any document is being prepared for the Legislature, it is to be tabled here first.

Most of us have been faced with the situation where we are somewhat inconvenienced because, particularly in my jurisdiction, very often the news people and the radio station will be reading the *Toronto Globe and Mail* or the *Toronto Star* in the morning and they will see that some great royal commission is about to unfold. They will have an advance story on that. On a couple of occasions they had committee reports which had been prematurely released. So they will call me at my house before I get on the road in the morning and want to know what I think about these committee reports. Obviously, if I have not read the morning newspapers, I have not had the opportunity to have those reports tabled in the Legislature.

I think from the committee's point of view and this Legislature's, this is a bit of an inconvenience. In the report that is before us this evening, we tried to point out to members that it is contempt of the Legislature, that there is a process here that perhaps people are not aware of. I think we took the stance that no one really had any malice in his mind when he released copies of the committee report or held a press conference in one instance. We were aware that members here, after they had been reminded that they really should not do that, have stood up in the Legislature and apologized for doing it.

None the less, I think my basic concern was that we did not want that to become the practice either. The committee felt an obligation to point out to the members here that there is a long tradition and standing orders and an oath of office that have to be considered here. Maybe it was time to remind members of the Legislature and the staff, who also have access to this kind of information, because they are working on committees, that it is traditionally a serious offence for someone to disclose a committee report prior to its being tabled in the Legislature.

That is the flavour or the background of the working committee.

We also addressed ourselves to the other problem of committees meeting in camera. Most of us know there is a recurring problem at the municipal level with committees of council meeting behind closed doors. It is not exactly a widespread practice here, but we were trying to refresh people's memories that they have to make conscientious decisions about when they meet in public.

It is all put on the public record. Therefore, some of the contents of a committee report will be known well in advance of the report being written. The committee will have taken testimony, had witnesses and probably have engaged in some debate beforehand. We wanted to make sure that the members of the Legislature and of committees make this a very conscious decision and that they do not slip into the practice of going in camera.

An argument can be made that there are occasions when it is best for a committee to be less formal than it normally is, to close the doors and talk about something, search for a consensus and look for ways that a committee report might be put together, for example.

I think the procedural affairs committee itself has sometimes gone in camera a bit too often, but there is solid reasoning behind that. The committee wants to work by consensus and get a good

sense of what the report will look like in its final form. If there are arguments about an agency or about procedural matters, we want that opportunity. I am not absolutely convinced that it is required that Hansard record every golden word of those debates, but we try to restrict our use of in camera sessions.

As we pointed out in the summary, all these things should be done in a conscientious manner. If we want to go in camera and have a discussion, there are provisions to do that. However, that means one has to start thinking more seriously about disclosing what has been debated in camera and about disclosing prematurely a report that has not yet been tabled in the Legislature.

We wanted to remind the members that there are lots of precedents in May and elsewhere that indicate that when reports of this nature are released too early, that should be considered a serious fault, whatever the format, whether they are leaked to the media or one takes bits and pieces and puts out press releases. However one might do it, it is wrong.

The first obligation is to this Legislature. Most of the committee work begins here. Work is assigned to a committee. We felt that all members should have the same starting point with a committee report. I would extend that and say any document.

For example, it is wrong for us to pick up a Toronto morning newspaper and read about the Thom commission. That is quite wrong. I am more than a little upset that something as substantial as major rent review provisions resulting from a long and involved commission would first be brought to my attention in a morning newspaper. Even though it is not strictly speaking members of the Legislature who are involved on the commission, it is quite wrong that we should read about that second-hand in a morning newspaper. If that information is to be presented to the public, there is an obligation on the part of all the ministries, on the part of anyone who might be operating a royal commission or doing any investigation of that nature, to report such findings to the Legislature.

One could find precedents in other areas where it seems to make sense from time to time to take legislation—I am the critic for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; so I am aware that often the legislation we see at Queen's Park is the end result of three or four years of negotiation and consultation with the municipalities and with municipal organizations. I do not have any great problem with that, but I still think that even when legislation is introduced it ought

to be here first. The members, who will be asked to decide whether it is good or bad legislation, ought to see it before it is preconditioned and moved around the province. There is an obligation on the part of the government to do that.

8:40 p.m.

When a group or individual is writing a substantial report for the Legislature of Ontario, we ought to see it first. I am not very happy reading in this morning's paper that our budget is discussed in New York City before it is discussed at Queen's Park. What appeared to me to be a substantial statement by the Premier (Mr. Davis) concerning restraint programs and cutbacks that will have to take place in certain areas was made in New York too, as opposed to being made here in the Legislature.

In a number of ways, this Legislature is going to have to address itself to the problem outlined in this committee report, which by inference affects other areas as well. I believe, without question, that when a royal commission report, a summary or version of it or the first draft of it appears in Toronto newspapers or in anybody's newspapers, that is cause for concern.

I know the Speaker listened carefully this afternoon to complaints from members that their privileges had been breached. The Speaker did not consider that to be the case. I believe it is the case. I believe there are some rules to the process, and one of the rules is that reports come in and out of this chamber.

When a royal commission starts, we should be told about it here. We should know the outline under which that commission will work. We should have some concept of how long and how big a deal it is going to be. The culmination of that process is a report being tabled in this Legislature, not being leaked to a newspaper, not being talked about at some dinner speech somewhere, but being brought back to this Legislature.

In future, I for one am going to put my oar in every time I see that happen. I believe it is quite wrong to read about that kind of commission report in the popular press in the morning without so much as any kind of statement on behalf of the minister in the Legislature. There is an obligation on the part of the minister, if he wants to test the waters, to table an interim report in here and let it go out that way. That would seem to me to be fair.

However, there seems to have grown up in the past few years a practice that whenever there is some controversial matter, and some not so controversial, and somebody wants to fly a kite,

some member of staff, I suppose, makes available to some reporters a draft, bits and pieces or whatever. That allows the minister a lot of leeway. He can then say: "I did not do that. Maybe somebody who worked in my office did that. Maybe somebody at the printers did it. I did not do it." He can also put a disclaimer out and say, "That is not the final report." However, I think that is wrong.

If someone wants to come in here and table an interim report and say, "Here are some options," that is fine. All of us get to see that report at the same time in the same place. All of us have access to it. All the media have the same opportunity to write their stories about it. That seems to be fair.

What I think is wrong is to disclose a portion of that report to some people, or to fly a kite in that sense, and then give the minister all these other options, that he or she is not responsible for the contents, did not know it was going out or does not believe it will all happen. There is a time, and this is it, for the Legislature of Ontario to take a look at how reports coming out of committees of this Legislature, or out of royal commissions or task forces or study groups or anything else, are made public in the first instance.

The traditions of parliament are clear. One is very simply that reports should be made public in parliament first. Then everyone in the media, the public and the members of the Legislature have equal access to that information. They can all begin their discussions about the pros and cons of a particular report from the same starting point. There is a good reason for that. To do otherwise is to allow a gross distortion of a process that is hundreds of years old.

This report from the procedural affairs committee addresses itself to that problem. It is meant to try to serve as a warning to members that in this Legislature we generally do not deal with matters of national security; so they are not going to bomb Oshawa harbour if a committee report from Queen's Park is leaked a little early. There are occasions, however, when committees here do deal with rather sensitive matters, in which case a process ought to be clearly laid out by a committee on how it is going to write and release the report. We tried to put out as gentle a warning as we could, but I suspect there will be those who will pay some attention to it for now and then quickly forget about it.

I caution the members to read this report. It is not that long. It will not take a great deal of time, but it is important. We have clearly reaffirmed the principle that to prematurely disclose materi-

al in a member's possession because he is a member of this Legislature shows contempt of the Legislature. If we follow the logical process that is possible—not that we would always do it, but if we follow it according to the rule of proper procedure—contempt of this Legislature is a serious charge.

We are trying to point out to members here, to the people who work here and to those involved in the preparation of these reports that we consider this to be a serious problem. Ignoring it and simply allowing things to bubble along so that reports get put out at somebody's convenience and members of the Legislature get to see them or not see them just by happenstance should not be allowed to continue.

We tried to say that in as gentle a way as possible. We do not particularly want to see someone embarrassed by a charge of contempt of the Legislature. The procedural affairs committee would probably be the group that would listen to the arguments about whether or not it was contempt. We are not anxious to proceed on that.

I recall on a couple of occasions we have got into areas where members' privileges were involved and we found it uncomfortable to sit and judge the actions of our peers. We would prefer not to do that. According to our own standing orders and parliamentary tradition, it is clear that is exactly the position in which we would be placed. If people show contempt for the Legislature of Ontario, for the legislative process and for all that parliamentary tradition, there is not much of an option.

Oddly enough, there are some rules to the parliamentary process. There may not be any rules to the political process, but there are written rules encased in the tradition of parliament that have to be followed.

In this report we are trying to remind members in as quiet, dignified and rational way as we can that this is a no-no and should not happen again. I hope all members of the Legislature will take the few brief moments it needs of their time to read through this report.

We took the position in committee that this was not a deliberate attempt on the part of any committee chairman or any member of the Legislature to scuttle the works. Perhaps through not being as aware as they might have been of the rules and procedures of this House and the traditions of a parliament, people had done things that were real no-nos, but it had not been a conscious act on their part; they were a bit sloppy or unaware of how it should be done.

We tried to lay out as succinctly as we could exactly how this is supposed to happen. We are trying to put together a gentle warning here. I caution the members that if the gentle warning does not work, obviously something else has to be done. Unfortunately, something else is the old tradition of accusing someone of showing contempt for the Legislature. That is not something we are anxious to jump right into, but I believe it is not unfair to say the majority position on the committee was that this is the next thing that has to happen.

If this warning or reminder does not work, then somebody from this Legislature will be charged quite properly and in order with contempt of the Legislature. We do not want to see that happen. We do not want to build up a lot of precedents around that. We prefer to think that every individual here is an honourable member and that if an individual has made errors in the past, it was simply because he was not aware that it was an improper action.

8:50 p.m.

In a nutshell, that is the recommendation of the procedural affairs committee on the premature disclosure of committee reports. As I say, I personally would extend that somewhat. These are solid guidelines, not just for reports coming out of committees but also for reports from royal commissions or anywhere else. This Legislature is the place where it is supposed to start and stop. The beginning of a report happens here, usually when a minister of the crown rises to make some great statement of the day. It should end in the same manner.

When a report is finally done or when we have an interim report, it should come back in here and a minister of the crown or the chairman of a committee should rise in his or her place and tell all the members at the same time, "Here is the report," "Here is the interim report," "Here is the discussion paper" or "Here is a document." Everyone has equal access to it; everyone gets it at the same time; all the media people can write their stories at the same time; all the public out there will at least have an equal shot at understanding what they are to do.

It is another occasion when the committee responded in a commonsense and practical way to problems we were getting into. It is our hope as a committee that the Legislature itself and all those who work here will pay heed to this. We think it has the potential to be a serious problem. We are not suggesting that we have had a serious problem yet, but it could come, and we wanted

the members to be aware of all the ramifications of it.

Motion agreed to.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I am so glad my friend the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) is here. I do not know what I would do without him.

Mr. Van Horne: Does he have his bag with him?

Mr. Martel: He has his money bag with him. He has spent the past three years running back and forth every week with a bagful of money. In fact, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) said to me today: "Sudbury gets everything and Sault Ste. Marie gets nothing. Jim Gordon just takes it all back to Sudbury."

By the way, this is a totally nonpartisan brochure.

Mr. Gordon: Can we have a copy of that?

Mr. Martel: Totally nonpartisan; that is what they keep saying. My friend the member for Middlesex (Mr. Eaton), the former chief government whip and now a Minister without Portfolio, knows full well that when a New Democratic Party member put the NDP name on his brochure that minister used to just about go bananas because that was identifying the party. It does not identify the party when you have a picture with Larry Grossman. I do not know whom he is supporting.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member will refer to other members by their offices or by their seats.

Mr. Nixon: What colour is that?

Mr. Martel: They come in blue; oh, yes.

But this fellow is busy. One thing about it is that it saves me carrying it, and he makes all the announcements for me. I am glad because I do not have time; I am too busy working. He makes all the announcements: for his riding, for my riding, for that of my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren). He makes them all.

Mr. Gordon: The whole region.

Mr. Martel: He is going to start making them for the Minister of Labour pretty soon. There is nothing the member for Sudbury does not announce. I want to congratulate him for bringing all that money to Sudbury, Sudbury East, Sioux Lookout, Thunder Bay, Kenora and

Rainy River. If it moves and it is in northern Ontario, it is done.

Mr. Gordon: There are not enough hours in the day.

Mr. Riddell: What does the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) think about that?

Mr. Martel: Oh, he is dead in the water.

Mr. Gillies: The member must work 24 hours a day.

Mr. Martel: Twenty-four hours? Is my friend kidding? Thirty-two hours a day, eight days a week, no less. It takes that much time to make all these announcements and to gather up \$100 million in three years. The Premier (Mr. Davis) does not get that much money for his riding. If I send this to the Premier—I had better not; he is going to cut the member off.

Interjection.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: He is the busiest little beaver I have ever seen. That man is so busy he does not have time to eat or drink, not even a little libation.

Mr. Gordon: Everybody tells me I am getting thinner.

Mr. Martel: I know. The member is just working too hard. He can cool down. There is no election coming now. The timing was pretty good, though. In the event of an election it would have been great stuff.

The brochure does not identify the party, and I am pleased with that. It does not identify the party anywhere. It is not a political document of any description; it is totally nonpartisan. My goodness, there is even a picture of none other than the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) with the member for Sudbury. They announced a new police station, an Ontario Provincial Police building. I was not invited to the press conference.

Where is the new police headquarters going? Sudbury East. They did not put it in Sudbury. They know where the power is. They put it in Sudbury East. If they had not put it in Sudbury East, imagine the trouble they would have been in.

Mr. Gillies: They knew where a police station was needed.

Mr. Martel: That is right. They have to catch all these people coming into the city so we can keep all the thugs out.

Mr. Gordon: We have seen the member speeding in in his Chrysler.

Mr. Martel: I know. That is why I put cruise control on my car; I was getting too many tickets. When one gets eight points in 11 months one has to slow down. I put cruise control on to slow me down.

What else? Five passing lanes. My friend, Lorne Maeck, the former member for Parry Sound, would come to me every provincial election and say, "I am using your statements in the House against your NDP colleague in Parry Sound." I used to call for passing lanes until we would eventually have enough money to build a dual highway. I called for passing lanes and Lorne used to use that at re-election. He would get to a debate and say, "The member for Sudbury East is saying we have to have passing lanes." We finally got five in Sudbury East. Where were they are announced? By golly, they show up in the member for Sudbury's brochure. He saved me the trouble of making the announcement.

Mr. Stevenson: Where else would the member put them?

Mr. Martel: He might give some credit to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) and have his picture in it. I had that minister's picture in my last one when he put a new road into a community that needed it greatly. The minister appeared in my newsletter with the council in St. Charles. I am the neutral one.

That fellow does save me work, though. He makes all the announcements; he runs upstairs, phones all the television and radio stations. Better still, he sends information out at 5:30 on Thursday morning, I think it is, by courier to Sudbury, so the television station and the two radio stations all have it. Then at nine o'clock he phones them all just to make sure they have it. He makes all the announcements and saves me the trouble. I do not have to make any announcements any more.

The interesting thing, though, is that the people of Sudbury East know who has done the work on this stuff. If he saves me a little work, I appreciate it. If he makes the announcements for me, I appreciate it. I am glad he carries the money. I think for Christmas I am going to buy him a bigger packsack. If I buy him a bigger packsack, he can take more money home and we can get that up to \$200 million before the next provincial election. Just a possibility: a big brown packsack.

Mr. Gordon: I have three quarters of a million right here. If the member will let me get up, I will talk about it.

Mr. Martel: I am going to speak for a while. I wish my friend from Sudbury and his party would start to deal with the real problems of Sudbury. Maybe he will speak tonight about the 19,000 people who are unemployed; 12,000 people have left the Sudbury district, and we still have 19,000 people unemployed. Then there is the housing shortage; we have 550 families on a waiting list for public housing. We also have 2,800 workers who are employable, looking for a job, and on welfare.

He is on the right track. We must remember it was in a debate here some time ago that he called for the nationalization of Inco and Falconbridge.

9 p.m.

Mr. Ruston: With the member for Sudbury East as chairman.

Mr. Martel: We might make money if I were chairman.

He called for it. It is interesting. The Pope was in town a couple of weeks ago—I do not mean in Toronto, I mean in Sudbury—the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope). He did not talk about the problems of Sudbury either. I checked with Mel Soucie just to see how many new jobs had been created in Sudbury over the last interim of my friend from Sudbury and the provincial member from Sudbury who is a minister and the minister from Nickel Belt; and Mel Soucie came up with the total figure of about 60 permanent jobs having been created.

Those are the problems confronting the people of Sudbury. I started the other night to discuss some of the ideas my colleague the member for Nickel Belt and I had put in a document called A Challenge to Sudbury, a document we made up primarily from government studies both at the federal and provincial levels. It called for certain types of development in Sudbury based on the resources in the Sudbury basin.

Mr. Elston: Why do you not say “composed” rather than made up?

Mr. Martel: It is easier.

Mr. Elston: It sounds as if you just sort of made it up.

Mr. Martel: I am like Casey Stengel. The game ain't over until it's over and you make 'em up as you go along.

The other night I mentioned some of the things we could do with nickel import replacement. I talked about such things as \$21 million worth of stainless steel cutlery coming into this country. I talked about importing \$40 million worth of stainless steel surgical instruments, \$241 million worth of valves made from nickel and \$43

million worth of heat exchangers. All these are manufactured somewhere else, but the source of the nickel is the Sudbury basin. They are not manufactured in Canada or Ontario, but in the United States, Sweden, West Germany or France. Those are the places from which we import some of these materials.

Of every dollar spent on medical supplies, 70 cents is spent on imports. One would think we have the capacity, with the natural resources we have in abundance, to start to manufacture some of that stainless steel X-ray equipment and medical equipment. We might make some of it here and create some jobs here for young Canadians and some not so young Canadians. As my friend from Sudbury knows full well, people aged 30, 35 or 40 are out of work because of the cutbacks in the nickel industry.

If we are ever going to move ahead as a country, we cannot do what Brian Mulroney is doing already, running down to the United States on bended knee, genuflecting, scraping, bowing to Reagan, suggesting what we need is greater exportation. We have to begin to stop the exporting of our natural resources, refine them here and convert them into something we build ourselves.

That has been the great sellout of Canada, lo these last 100 years. I do not want to insult my Liberal friends, but since the time of C. D. Howe we have switched from exporting raw materials to Great Britain and have decided the United States is a bigger market, so we sell everything and send everything there. We pay the price. While the American rate of unemployment has dropped to about seven per cent, ours remains at about 11.5 per cent or 12 per cent. We have the resources. It is not as if we are some have-not country without the resources to find jobs, if government would only become the catalyst in trying to do some of the things we suggested in our paper.

We also talked about refining capacity. This government is as guilty as sin. Two years ago, it gave another 10 years to Falconbridge to send all its nickel to Norway to be refined. There are layoffs of 1,300 or 1,400 workers at Falconbridge in Sudbury and the government gives an exemption to Falconbridge to send all its nickel, unrefined, to Norway—creating 1,200 or 1,300 jobs in Norway. I guess I am partisan when I talk about us as opposed to Norwegians.

I recall a debate we had in this Legislature in 1969 when the government of Ontario was moving a new section, section 104, to the Mining Act. It used to be section 113. It called for the

refining, where possible, of resources in Canada. The New Democratic Party moved a motion saying "in Ontario." We were being much too parochial in saying Ontario, but they put it in. However, over the years there has been one exemption after another.

For example, Inco can still exempt and send to Japan, even though Inco is in consort with a company in Indonesia that sends unrefined nickel to Japan. We continue to let them take nickel from here and send it to Japan unrefined. I think there is something wrong. In fact, I think there is something perverse about a society that has that kind of resource and sends it somewhere else for refining.

It says that we do not have the capacity to refine in Ontario, that we do not have the capacity through skilled workmen to do that work, that we do not have those types of capacities. I disagree fundamentally.

We are so stupid in this province. Inco has to throw 100 million tons of iron ore into the tailings dump every year. It has already been extracted from the ore. They have to throw it away because Dofasco and the other companies will not use it. Why will they not use it? They say there is too much nickel content in the iron ore, so we throw 100 million tons of iron ore into the tailings area annually.

Tell me a country that can afford to do that. Then we turn around and we import things like cutlery and other commodities from abroad. My colleague and I said we should have a mini-factory for iron. People are going to jump up and say, "The steel industry is in serious trouble." My colleague Simon Rosenbloom from Sudbury tells me the only steel companies in the United States that are making much money are the small ones that use old scrap and the whole business. They are making money.

Tell me a society that can throw away 100 million tons a year. If my friend was making announcements like that I would be delighted, but we are nickel and diming it. We are trying to pretend to the people that there are no problems. All this largess is coming to Sudbury and we have 19,000 people unemployed in Sudbury and Manitoulin. There is something bogus.

If we were poverty stricken and if we had nothing, I could say that is part of the reason we have nothing. However, when one lives in the richest area in the country in terms of such resources as gold, nickel, copper, iron ore and platinum and we ship it all out, there is something wrong.

My colleague and I said there was another thing we could do. We hear a great deal about acid rain in this country. It is just awful what acid rain is doing to devastate the area. I think Inco has the capacity to produce one third more sulphuric acid than it is currently producing, but we cannot glut the market. It could not be sold.

There is a phosphate deposit in Cargill. It is near the riding of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché). My colleague the member for Nickel Belt and I put in this report that we should take the phosphate from Cargill township in northern Ontario, extract it from the ground, refine it to whatever degree necessary in the Cochrane area, produce more sulphuric acid at Inco rather than put it up the stack and spread it around the country, and by combining those two things we would have fertilizer.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I think my colleague the member for Sudbury East deserves a quorum in the Legislature and I hope you will take a look.

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

9:14 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: We now have a quorum.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted we have a quorum because I was talking about the member for Cochrane North when the bells were rung. I am glad he is here.

Mr. Van Horne: He just walked in.

Mr. Martel: Do not go away, I want to talk to this fellow.

I was saying we wanted to provide some work for the people extracting the phosphates from Cargill and combine them with the sulphuric acid from Inco so we do not have acid rain. If the two are put together, we will have fertilizer. The member for Cochrane North got up in his place, as he is wont to do, and said to the Pope, "You are not going to let those beggars from the Sudbury area take our phosphates from us, are you?" The Pope said, "No way, we are not going to do that because we as a government believe in refining resources at source."

I could never use the word "prevaricate" and I will not use the word I was going to use. However, for the Minister of Natural Resources to say this government has a policy of refining all its resources at source is just so much hokum. He assured the member for Cochrane North he would never allow those phosphates to come to Sudbury.

Know what? The phosphates are still in the ground. The company that owns them wants to ship them out of the country unprocessed. My friend falls for it. Rather than two municipalities in the north co-operating and combining those two things to make fertilizer, my friend would sooner have them remain in the ground. There are no jobs for the people in Cochrane North; no jobs for the people in Sudbury; and we can import fertilizer if we want.

However, he and the Pope agreed we would not get at it. I saw the Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd. statement where they said, "We need a cheap source of transportation to take it somewhere else." This is not Canada. Guess where that somewhere else is: south of the border. Those two fellows collaborated to not produce fertilizer in the north. Therefore, nobody has jobs. We will leave it in the ground and when we take it out, we will give them another exemption under section 104 of the Mining Act and they can ship it out unrefined, unprocessed. Just get it out of the country.

Mr. Haggerty: Then bring it back in.

Mr. Martel: Then bring it back in. We will not use the sulphuric acid from Inco and the phosphates from Cargill to make fertilizer; we will leave them in the ground. The people are better off unemployed.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: How can I be out of order when I am speaking?

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Because it is very important to me and to the Minister of Natural Resources, I would like to know where the member for Sudbury East gets the information that we were against whatever he was saying. I am not too sure I can use the word "crap" here, but I am adverse to what he is saying.

All I want to know from the honourable member—in fact, I do not think he is an honourable member—is where he got the information that the minister and I are against it, the inference that he brought.

The Acting Speaker: We thank the honourable member. That is not a point of order.

Mr. Piché: I have information for you. It was a point of order, no matter what you say.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member will resume his seat.

Mr. Piché: I will not resume my seat.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member will withdraw those words.

Mr. Martel: Oh, you are chicken, eh?

Mr. Van Horne: Do not let him shout you down.

The Acting Speaker: I caution the honourable member now to withdraw those words.

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, you and I have known each other for a long time.

Mr. Epp: Too long.

9:20 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member—

Mr. Piché: Mr. Speaker, I have the floor here. I am pleased to withdraw my comments.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Sudbury East will continue.

Mr. Martel: I want to tell the members it is all blunderbuss from him. He just capitulates.

The Acting Speaker: I would ask the member for Sudbury East to speak to the motion.

Mr. Martel: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Piché: The member for Sudbury East is being provocative.

Mr. Martel: Would he spell that for Hansard? He had a little difficulty pronouncing it, but if he would spell it for us, I will wait.

I just want to say that it is strange that here we have these big companies saying they could not get an adequate supply of sulphuric acid. That was one of the reasons they would not extract the phosphate; they could not get an adequate supply of sulphuric acid. So help me, I have never seen or heard anything so ridiculous in all my life.

Mr. Haggerty: There are tons of it in the lakes up there.

Mr. Martel: It is in the lakes and in the air. We have the poor Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) crying almost daily. He goes begging to Inco and to Ontario Hydro, particularly Hydro. He goes to Hydro almost daily to say to the chairman: "Will you please cut back? Put a scrubber in. Do something. Get them off my back in the Legislature."

In the Sudbury area we could reduce that if we just produced more sulphuric acid, combined it with the phosphates from cargo and made fertilizer. Then for a change we would not be destroying the ecology, but working to improve it.

That one went by the board. We tried to talk to the ministers and nothing happened. They were mute. We know Inco is in financial difficulty. Maybe the two levels of government should provide loan guarantees to ensure a new smelter.

Then they could attach to it a refining capacity for Falconbridge's nickel that it sends to Norway to be processed and for all the precious metals that go to England to be processed. They should have a new refinery. With that new refinery we could have jobs in the construction trade for 10 years, because that is how long it would take to finish it. It would reduce sulphur dioxide emissions which lead to acid rain. Both levels of government are mute.

All I ever hear is: "Here is a good project. For three experiments: \$180,000 for greenhouse projects." We hear that sort of announcement when a new smelter would do something to alleviate the unemployment problem in Sudbury. We get nothing, not even a response. They are mute. We should not ask them to act as a catalyst.

I will tell the members how bad it is in the north. Some of the farmers—and they know more about farming than I do, I can assure honourable members—tell me there is not a quota. A man wants to farm chickens. There is not a chicken quota in northern Ontario, not one. I have had him down here with the ministry.

Mr. Villeneuve: There are lots of them.

Mr. Martel: My friend is wrong. Just six months ago we met with the head people from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food over on Bay Street. This young man was trying to get a chicken quota. He cannot get one and there is not one.

Mr. Villeneuve: There are all kinds of them in northern Ontario. The farmers are making money, too.

Mr. Martel: The member is serious? That is not what the Ministry of Agriculture and Food told me. Maybe the member is referring to egg quotas. I am talking of broiler chickens. There is none.

Mr. Mackenzie: He probably does not know the difference between eggs and hens. The egg is the little round thing.

Mr. Martel: I defy the member to check to find a quota in northern Ontario. Mr. Grandmaison in Warren and I came right down here to the ministry. He wants to improve things in northern Ontario, but he has to buy a quota in southern Ontario, farm it for two years and then maybe transfer it north.

There is something crazy when a young man wants to do that and cannot. He has to come to southern Ontario, farm for two years and then transfer his quota to the north. He cannot even produce legally for local consumption. We say to the ministry, "Do something for the north." Now

there are no more quotas. The biggies would wipe you out anyway because they would undercut you until you were dead. They would use this as lost leaders in the big stores and so on and wipe you out.

It is great, is it not? We import every chicken in northern Ontario. Everything that goes there costs us money. Everything we have that is good is ripped out and brought down here or it is sent south of the border into the United States.

We do not hear Conservative members from the north talking like this. They do up north. They are tough up there. The member for Sudbury wants to nationalize Inco and Falconbridge, two companies in one swoop. He outdoes me. When I moved a bill to nationalize them, I invited him to second my bill. He left the chamber. I was so hurt when he would not second my bill. After he called for the nationalization in the debate, I gave him an opportunity to second my bill. He walked out. I was hurt.

What one puts into the newspaper for the folks back home and what one really wants to do are two totally different things. Can you imagine my shock when he declined the offer to second my bill? Maybe it was because I did not nationalize Falconbridge at the same time. Maybe I should have put the two of them in and then he would have done it. That was my mistake. I will have the bill redrafted. Take Falconbridge too. What the hell, there is no sense being a piker. Take them both.

Mr. Ruston: And take your name out as president.

Mr. Martel: No, no, I want to be president.

I go to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and say to him: "We have stage 3 of agricultural development in Valley East. For this amount of money, we could create 150 jobs by doing some reforestation." The Treasurer comes to Sudbury and he and another fellow appear on television signing this thing for 30 part-time jobs.

I have no money for stage 3 of agricultural development in Valley East. I go to the Minister of Northern Affairs and say to him, "Can you give us stage 3?" He says: "No, I cannot give you stage 3. You better go back to the Treasurer."

When all is said and done, they will not put in a cent for development. I would remind the House that in 1947, 1948 and 1949 Valley East had the world champion potatoes. We had a lot of gas in the 1930s, but the gas is gone now. We put up a big stack, and it went down to Muskoka. Valley East is without the gas, and things are growing better. What we need is a little of the green stuff to reforest that area, get some forest cover, so we

can move into agriculture. I go to see them and they turn me down—\$3 million to get stage 3.

I go to the Pope and say, "You have promised \$3 million." By the way, the member for Sudbury announced that too. He never attended a meeting and never wrote a letter on Wanapitei Park. I have been on it for 12 years. He was not even born when I was working on it, but now he is the architect.

Mr. Breagh: He was a Liberal then, was he not?

Mr. Martel: No. I think he was still a Tory. He was ambivalent. He was only ambivalent on the eve of the last election. He was playing with bull. He led George Lund down the garden path. None the less, we have massive unemployment in Sudbury this year. We have 19,000 unemployed. Why does the minister not spend the money this year that he promised to spend next year to provide jobs for people who need it? We will have a nice park anyway. No, he cannot do that either.

9:30 p.m.

Then the Treasurer comes to town and creates 30 part-time jobs. There is something perverse about what they do, what they think and the way they think. As long as it is an announcement, a public relations job, it does not matter what it does. That is what most of it is about.

My colleague from Sudbury and I talked in our paper about such things as institutional replacement. The former member for Prescott-Russell constantly harrassed this government in the three short years he was here about government ensuring that supplies in its own institutions are Canadian-produced.

We do not do that. We just looked at some studies on equipment, supplies and furniture. Two thirds of the money, \$2.2 billion worth, left the country. In other words, Canadians spent about \$1.4 billion on foreign goods to equip and supply Canadian public institutions. If I were in government, I might insist that before I buy these from a company, it would be a Canadian company. It is taxpayers' money.

We put all this together from the government's own studies and we submitted it to almost every cabinet minister. We said: "Would you look at it? Sudbury is in crisis." We did the same thing with the federal government. They sat on their hands. They have their fingers in their ears and their brain in neutral. They make dinky little announcements, while 15 to 17 per cent of the people in the area are devastated with no hope.

The only hope came last week. I am sure someone else will want to say "I did it," but that

is not my style. We finally got a plant that is going to start to produce mining equipment. For Sudbury that could be the first major change in many years.

When I spoke at that opening last Friday, I served notice on all of the officials, whether from the Northern Ontario Development Corp. or the Federal Business Development Bank or so on. I said: "I serve notice on you now. This company is going to produce three new types of equipment and we want to ensure that those parts will be produced locally by local businessmen. If you have to put a little cash up by loan, by equity or whatever to ensure that those parts that will be assembled are produced locally, you better be on the ball to do it."

Everything I have talked about tonight and last Tuesday has dealt with what we could do with what we have if we ever had a government that had any disposition at all to economic planning.

When I started out speaking the other night I pointed out that we are in the heartland of the industrial United States. We have the greatest supply of resources and variety of resources going because in Canada we are the third largest producer of mineral wealth in the world.

If we only had governments that would sit down and work with industry and labour to do a little sound planning, to provide jobs for our kids, using the resources that are here and manufacturing those resources into a finished commodity, we would not have a million and a half unemployed. We would not have the type of unemployment we have.

When I look at the budget of the Treasurer in May, and that is what we are speaking about, there is virtually nothing in there that is going to do a thing to change the direction and the course we have been on for years. "Let it happen, and if it happens, we take credit for it. If it closes, it is not our fault. We did not do it." Willy-nilly, we will stumble every step of the way with massive unemployment, a whole generation being shafted; and yet we have the capacity to do otherwise.

I always wonder how the Japanese get away with it. They do not have coal, gas, iron, trees, wood or power and yet they lead the world economically. We have it all and we have given it all away. We do not have the capacity to make the structural changes that are necessary to change the direction we are going. We will continue to stumble, and 15 or 18 per cent of the people in Sudbury, 11 or 12 per cent in Canada and eight or nine per cent in Ontario will continue to be devastated. But as long as we are not

suffering, we really will not do much; we will not change.

In conclusion, the Treasurer's budget is not going to change conditions in the Sudbury area one jot. We will come back here next year and say the same things over again. The only difference is that next year the Treasurer will try to put some funds into those job creation and retraining things he talks about. Next year he will put some money in them. All he did this year was to put the infrastructure in place. He can try to con the people. It ain't gonna work.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise and express my support for the budgetary policy of the Progressive Conservative government of Ontario.

I want to concentrate on the budget as it relates to this government's record of fiscal management and its commitment to providing the people of this province with cost-effective services and responsible stewardship of the public purse.

I would further like to say I hope the member for Sudbury East will not leave, since I did spend at least a good hour and a half listening to his speech. I found it very entertaining. I was also very gratified to hear him describe my record here in this House, a record I am very proud of and one I think speaks very well for the Progressive Conservative government of Ontario.

I have been very fortunate since March 1981 to have had the ear of so many ministers of the crown and to have had the support of my colleagues whenever I have brought forward a project that had been formulated, worked on and planned for by the people of Sudbury.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Can the honourable member justify his position in supporting the budgetary policy of the government when even the Financial Post is very critical of the budgetary process?

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member's time to join the debate will come. That is not a point of order. The member for Sudbury will please continue.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, in late January 1981—at that time I was the mayor of Sudbury—I decided the only way I could do more for my community was to seek a higher office in Ontario. After a great deal of soul-searching and deliberation with my family, I decided to run for this party.

9:40 p.m.

I am very proud of my record. That record was enunciated and described quite fully in a recent newsletter in Sudbury. In that letter we talked

about some of the things we have been able to do not only in the riding of Sudbury but also in northern Ontario and, in particular, in the Sudbury region.

First of all, I think we showed our sensitivity to the north, and in particular to the Sudbury region, when the announcement was made by the Minister of Health in 1982 that a cancer treatment centre would be built in Sudbury that would serve all of northeastern Ontario. Recently, the Premier was in Sudbury and turned the sod for the centre at Laurentian University. At that time, it was made clear that this centre would have all three modalities, chemotherapy, surgery and radiotherapy.

This kind of centre has been badly needed in the north for a long time. They tell me that in the first year of operation we can expect there will be approximately 1,400 cancer patients admitted and treated at that centre. I think that gives members some idea of the ramifications of the problem with health, particularly when it comes to that most dreaded disease cancer, in northeastern Ontario. That translates into something like 23,000 to 24,000 outpatient days a year. That is just one initiative that was referred to earlier by the member for Sudbury East.

Another initiative that has played a very real role in further laying a foundation for the future in Sudbury region is the Ontario Centre for Resource Machinery, which was established in Sudbury in 1982. As I mentioned, that centre is one of six. It is not in some other municipality or in some other region; it is in Sudbury. I do not think any of the members on the other side of the House, particularly the member for Sudbury East, would get up in this House and say he did not want it in Sudbury.

As a matter of fact, since that centre was established in my riding in Sudbury—I always talk about the Sudbury region because we live in a basin. The Sudbury basin, as members well know, was the basin formed by what some geologists believe was a meteorite hitting the earth; they believe that is how our nickel and copper ores were formed. That is just one theory.

Because we live in a basin, I never think of the Sudbury riding as the only area I represent. When I am speaking for the people of Sudbury, I always feel I am speaking for the people in Sudbury, Nickel Belt and Sudbury East. That is probably one reason the member opposite get a little perturbed.

I feel I must represent all the people in the Sudbury region, because they are the people who receive the same newspaper, watch the same

television shows and listen to the same radio stations. I think these are my people. I am sure he views the people in the Sudbury region as his people too, and I would not think otherwise.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I feel compelled to raise one point. The member for Sudbury is not compelled to speak on behalf of all the people living in Nickel Belt or in Sudbury East, because I think we have the two best representatives belonging to our party representing the people living in those areas.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Di Santo: The member should look after the interests of his own riding.

Mr. Gordon: I thank the honourable member for bringing me back again to what I really meant to refer to, because one of the things the budgetary policy of this government has done that I think is very important for the north and for the future of Ontario is that it has provided the kind of project we have in the Ontario resource machinery centre, which is established in my riding, in the city of Sudbury.

I would like to point out to the House just how much that has meant for Sudbury and for the north. Let me tell members one of the dreams all the people who live in my region have had; they have talked about this for years. They have said: "We have the mines and the smelters, we have been extracting these resources for years and we keep seeing machinery being tested, being shaped, being remodelled, being refined, machinery that comes from all over the world, in our hardrock mines and smelters. Why can we not produce some of those machines? Why can we not produce some of those parts in Sudbury region?"

Since 1981, and even before then, we have seen—

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: In the place I come from, something known as plagiarism is a serious offence. I wonder whether it is a problem in this House when a speaker appears to be plagiarizing former NDP speeches on this subject.

The Deputy Speaker: I have to share with the honourable member that I do not see anything out of order in the member's debate. It is all legitimate debate. Other members will have their turn.

Mr. Gordon: As I was saying, we have had this dream for a long time in Sudbury region. One of the very interesting features of the region is that we found ourselves remodelling, refining and improving equipment, machinery and parts

in our hardrock mines and smelters for companies from North America or from other parts of the world.

As a result, over the years a number of small companies were developed by men who had a strong entrepreneurial spirit and great technological and innovative skills. They hired people within the Sudbury region. They hired people who were willing to work hard and who believed in their own abilities. As a result, we have developed over the past 20 years what I would say is a respectable number of businesses that are quite capable and that do make parts for machines, both forestry and mining machines.

As a matter of fact, a number of these people are into the business of exporting their products to other parts of the world. What was a catalyst for our region was the decision in 1982 by the then Minister of Industry and Trade to establish a technology centre in Sudbury which is called the Ontario Centre for Resource Machinery.

That was a result of the budgetary process of this government. What it has done is this: since the establishment of that centre, a number of companies in the mining field have moved to Sudbury. One is a real giant in the mining machinery field, Gardner-Denver; it has moved to Sudbury. More and more firms throughout North America and indeed from Europe—as far away as Finland—have come to see the Sudbury region as the place to be if one is going to be into the development of new mining machinery and parts, not only for the Sudbury region but also for worldwide export.

The Ontario Centre for Resource Machinery has also spent money on eight projects in the Sudbury region that mean more jobs for people in the region. It has also meant that when Inco started to look at getting into the mining machinery field, it understood and saw that Sudbury was the only place to establish its new mining machinery company.

9:50 p.m.

I had the opportunity last Friday to attend the official opening of Continuous Mining Systems Ltd., a company that is financed by Inco as well as having received significant sums of money in the form of loans from both the federal and provincial governments. As a result of the budgetary wizardry of the government and the Treasurer, I was able to announce at that time a \$350,000 Northern Ontario Development Corp. loan to Continuous Mining Systems. I have to admit to my fellow members in the House that was not in my newsletter, because the newsletter came out about three weeks ago.

One of the reasons I look with a certain measure of optimism to the future of my region is that in the past three and a half years we have taken some very significant initiatives in that region. We have been laying the footings for the future. It is going to take time, but the will is there.

That is not the only area in which we have been active. I mentioned the health field. Let me mention one other aspect of the Sudbury region when it comes to health. In the past three and a half years, the Sudbury region was declared by the Ministry of Health to have the northeastern Ontario trauma centre. The centre is going to be at Sudbury General Hospital.

That means we are going to be able to give the kind of health care to the people of northeastern Ontario that they deserve. It is going to help them a great deal because it means that a lot of people who are ill, chronically, acutely or for a short period of time, are not going to have to travel to southern Ontario in the same numbers any more. That is going to save them a lot of money. They are going to be close to family and friends at a time when that kind of help is most needed.

It also means that in the past three and a half years we have built up a significant number of jobs in the health care field. That is what we need in the Sudbury region. We need a balanced economy. There is the health care field and the mining machinery and forestry fields, where the footings are currently in place.

One has to talk about the conscience of this government. This is a government of compassion, a government of understanding, a government of empathy and a government that listens to its people. When one looks at the Sudbury region, one of the most modern, compassionate and forward-thinking homes for women who have been battered, and who have had to flee their homes because of the beatings they have had to endure over a period of time, is Genevra House in Sudbury.

Before there were other homes for battered wives across northern Ontario, one of the first was begun in Sudbury. Many of the programs that go on now in that house in Sudbury were developed there. The model that was developed there is now used in other homes throughout northeastern Ontario.

One has to ask a question. How did we manage to have a house such as Genevra House in Sudbury? It is an interesting story. This is what happened. The Young Women's Christian Association, a very fine organization, years ago owned its own building downtown on Larch

Street, and a new building was built just across the street. They decided that perhaps they should move into bigger quarters, and so they did. They remained there for about seven or eight years. Then they found that the money they had been using—the interest from the home they had sold before—was not quite enough to enable them to make it financially in this rented space.

One day they came to see me in my office here in Toronto, and they said: "Jim, we have a real problem. We want to carry on taking care of women who have been battered and women who have no place to go in the Sudbury region, but we cannot afford to pay the kinds of rents we are paying in this particular building. We have been trying our best with the moneys we have had, but if we keep going the way we are going, we will soon have used up all the money we made when we sold that building across the street, and we will not be able to carry on at all."

How often have members in this House had people in their ridings come to them and say: "Look, we are really strapped; we are really up against it. What are we going to do?" Like other members, I started casting around and asking, "What are we going to do?"

Fortunately, I was able to talk to the Minister of Northern Affairs. I told him what their problem was, and he said: "I think we could find some money for these people and help them out, but it sounds to me as if what they need is to get into a building of their own. If we talk to the federal people too, perhaps we can get them to put up some money through Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., and the provincial people can give them some seed money."

That is what happened. Through the efforts of the federal Liberal member in Sudbury, who happens to be Doug Frith, through our efforts here at Queen's Park and through those of the Minister of Northern Affairs, who provided \$100,000 in seed money, we were able to get Genevra House off the ground. As a result, we have seen some pretty interesting things happen there, and it has been a model for the rest of the north.

One of the reasons the Minister of Northern Affairs was able to find that \$100,000 was the good money management of this government and the very astute and careful work that is done at Management Board.

I am pleased to see the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague) is here this evening, because I am sure that if he were asked to get up and talk a little bit about some of the things that have happened in northern Ontario as a result of

our budgetary policies, he would probably talk for at least three weeks.

Nevertheless, I am not going to ask the minister to get up, because there are many other things I would like to say about how our budgetary policies are having an impact on not only Sudbury but also all of northeastern Ontario.

I do think, though, that I have to correct something that was said tonight by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). He has stood up a number of times in this House and said, "The member for Sudbury called for the nationalization of Inco and Falconbridge."

If one really wants to know what was said, one should go back to Hansard. What one will see is that in a speech about the problems of my municipality, I said that if we were going to be giving money to these companies, one of the options we could look at was the possibility of a company like Inco becoming a crown corporation. That is what was said: one of the possibilities.

10 p.m.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, this fellow has been described by the mining people in the district as the most dangerous member in the Sudbury area. Now he is trying to weasel his way out of what he said a few years ago.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Treleaven): Order. He is just explaining himself.

Mr. Gordon: I just thought I would take this opportunity to set the record straight, although I should say that the New Democratic Party members in this House realize this kind of talk is not taking anything away from the member for Sudbury and, as a matter of fact, probably has been to his benefit, but that is another story. If that is the way they want to play it, that is fine with me. Nevertheless, I am going to carry on now.

I want to say it has been the responsible, prudent fiscal management and restraint in the growth of public spending and in the growth of the public sector that has long been the key element in the budgetary policy of this administration. The budget tabled by the Treasurer last May 15 made it clear that these two elements will continue to be at the foundation of this government's economic policy.

I believe most members in this House recognize the negative effects that burgeoning government deficits, uncontrolled public sector spending and a ballooning public debt have on the economy and, in particular, on job-creating private sector investments. The very severe

international recession of 1980-82 brought home to governments around the world the fact that they simply could not spend with impunity and impressed on all governments the need for and the importance of responsible fiscal management.

Mr. Elston: That is right. Responsible fiscal management means going down to New York and begging from the credit rating people.

Mr. Gordon: I really have to answer that. It is such a naive statement to make. Anybody who has ever been involved in municipal politics, educational school board politics, provincial or federal politics knows—

Mr. Ruston: How about business?

Mr. Gordon: —or business, knows one has to show the money-lenders one is responsible and fiscally sound. Money does not grow on trees, as the NDP would have us believe.

Interjection.

Mr. Gordon: What more I can say?

Mr. Charlton: What more can one say about a member who talks about nationalizing Inco and Falconbridge and then talks about government deficits?

Mr. Gordon: I find it highly amusing to listen to the members of the third party when they talk about nationalizing Inco or Falconbridge. Just a few years ago that was the only song they ever sang ad nauseam. Do you know what they are doing now? Do you know what they say now in the Sudbury region? Should I tell you, Mr. Speaker? They say we should be giving them money. We must find ways to give these people money.

What a switch. Here are these people on the other side, the third party, who a few years ago were talking about corporate bums and now they are saying they want to give the corporate bums money. Have you ever seen such a flip-flop in your life, Mr. Speaker? It is almost unbelievable. I do not believe it.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I want to correct the record. I would not like this to go unchallenged. I do not want to give the corporate bums any money. Is that clear enough? Even the member for Sudbury can understand that.

Mr. Gordon: I am really glad to hear that. When I first came down here, one of the things the two northern members from Sudbury used to tell me was: "You know, Jim, when you get down to Toronto, they are going to make you toe

the line, boy. You will never ever be able to say anything that is not the party line."

I have found since I have been in this caucus that there is a lot of latitude. I would have to say one of the things that has kept me in the Conservative Party—and I have been a Conservative ever since 1965 when I sought the nomination in Algoma riding to run against Lester Pearson, who was Prime Minister at that time—is that in our caucus there is room for dissent and discussion. I am quite comfortable as a Tory.

I have noticed, however, that the members of the third party always make sure every one of their members toes the party line. I have to say I have great admiration for the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breauch) this evening. He got up and said he refuses to toe the party line any more. I take my hat off to him. It was well done.

Mr. Breauch: While you have your hat in the air—

The Acting Speaker: Is this a point of privilege?

Mr. Breauch: It certainly is. I do not mind being misquoted, but the member for Sudbury should at least leave a couple of hours in between. He should never try to misquote me within five or 10 minutes of my saying something. He will have the embarrassing problem of having printed in Hansard what I said and, five minutes later, the member trying to misquote me again. He should learn the game a little bit better than that. He should at least wait until tomorrow when it would be printed in a different book.

Mr. Gordon: Carrying on with this budgetary debate, in listening to the opposition to our budget, which has been going ad nauseam, what I have noticed about the members of the third party is they regularly distort what is said. Maybe he will ask me to withdraw that.

Mr. Breauch: I do not mean to write this guy's speech for him, but, Mr. Speaker, you know you cannot say things like that in here. Members have had to apologize, withdraw and walk out the door. You cannot say, "lies," "distortions" or things like that in here. It is unparliamentary and I know you are aware of that. I know you will make the honourable member withdraw that remark.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, before you ask me to withdraw, I will withdraw the "distort" comment.

The Acting Speaker: Fine, thank you.

Mr. Gordon: Perhaps what I should have said was that if the member for Oshawa will read Hansard tomorrow, he will find there was a

distortion in what the member opposite insinuated I was trying to do to him. However, that is neither here nor there, so we will let that lie for now. I will carry on with the speech I have here.

I am pleased to be able to say the government of Ontario did not have to wait for the bitter lessons of 1980-82 to recognize the importance of government restraint. Since 1975, long before government restraint became the political fashion in this country and abroad, the government of Ontario had pursued, as part of its commitment to the prudent management of the province's economy, policies designed to control the growth of public spending, the size of the public sector and the size of the province's deficit.

I notice the Minister of Transportation and Communications is in the House tonight. It would really be remiss of me if I did not thank him for the number of meetings we had and the number of times he listened to my pleas and to the persuasive powers of the Minister of Northern Affairs when we went to the Minister of Transportation and Communications to ask him for five sections of passing lanes between the French River and Sudbury.

After considerable discussion, he finally agreed we would have those five passing-lane sections built between Sudbury and the French River. Since he is in the House tonight, I want to serve notice to the minister that I would like to have another meeting with him. At that meeting, we would like to ask to connect up those five passing-lane sections so we will finally have four lanes from Sudbury to the French River. However, we will leave that for another day and carry on with this talk.

Hon. Mr. Snow: It is only a gravel road now; there is no pavement.

10:10 p.m.

Mr. Gordon: That is an interjection by the minister.

As a result, these policies have controlled the growth of the public service in Ontario; increased the efficiency of the public sector and ensured the delivery of high-quality cost-efficient services to the people of Ontario; kept the provincial deficit within responsible limits; helped the province maintain its triple-A credit rating during an extremely difficult economic period; created a positive and stable fiscal environment in the province; and helped to reduce the burden of government in our economy and the cost of government to the citizens of Ontario, as well as playing a critical role in the government's efforts

to combat the recession and encourage economic recovery.

I know my friends across the aisle attempt from time to time to make light of these accomplishments and that is, after all, what they are here for, but let us lay partisan perceptions aside for the moment.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I think the member just suggested that the members opposite were here to make light of things that are proposed on the other side. I would like to ask him a question or two as to whether he does not make light of his own government's document on the deficit of this province.

The Acting Speaker: Order. There is no provision for the member to ask questions. The member for Hamilton West will please resume his seat.

Mr. Gordon: With regard to the pedantic remarks of the member for Hamilton West, may I say he is not in a classroom now. I think he has been here long enough to realize that this House is a different forum from that from which he came.

Public sector growth is another subject I would like to talk about. I am a little worried that with these interjections I am not going to get the opportunity to finish speaking this evening and will have to carry on.

Let us look at the facts about the size of Ontario's public service. The facts show this province has, in per capita terms, the smallest and most efficient public service sector in Canada. As indicated in our 1984 budget, between 1975 and March 1984 the size of Ontario's public service decreased by seven per cent. That reduction was achieved during a period when the population of our province increased by slightly more than nine per cent.

In 1975 there were 11 public servants per 1,000 population and each public service position served 94 of our citizens. By March of this year we were able to provide more and better services to the people of this province with only nine public servants for every 1,000 citizens, and the efficiency of our public service had increased to the point where each public service position served 110 people.

By comparison, Mr. Speaker, in Alberta—and as you know that is north of the Pickering River where I believe you have a camp—there are 17 public servants per 1,000 population. The figure is 13 in Manitoba, 14 in British Columbia, 15 in Saskatchewan and 32 in New Brunswick. In Quebec each public service position serves 105

people. In British Columbia it is only 70, in Manitoba 79, and in Saskatchewan and Alberta only 69 and 60 respectively.

I am of the opinion that a small, efficient public service is a good thing. I am sure the public feels the same way. Some members opposite may disagree, and I am sure the taxpayers of this province would be most interested in listening to their arguments on this point.

Let us look at the facts on deficit management. It is a fact that during the recession the deficit increased. Because of this government's sound record, the government was able to use the deficit as an important economic stabilizer during a very difficult period, without jeopardizing the fiscal integrity of the province.

Mr. Elston: Why was the deficit increasing through the most affluent times of the 1970s? Was that stabilizing things as well? The government has had a deficit since 1971.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Charlton: Tell us about the deficits you ran up in the boom years when you should not have had any.

Mr. Mackenzie: He has not read that far back.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I have heard the answer to that so many times from the Treasurer, from people like the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) and even from the Premier, and I am surprised members opposed do not know the answer to it. It has been repeated so many times in this House that I am a little worried about their ability to retain facts. Maybe some of them have begun to go to sleep on the other side. Maybe it is time we had an election to wake some people up to the realities of the 1980s.

Mr. Elston: The realities are that you guys have been increasing the deficit since 1971.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Sudbury has the floor.

Mr. Gordon: It is also a fact that, during fiscal years 1982 and 1983, Ontario's deficit, whether measured in per capita terms or in relation to gross provincial product, was the lowest of any Canadian province. In the last fiscal year this government was able to reduce its projected deficit by 12.8 per cent, or \$345 million. The 1984 budget projected that this year's deficit would be \$311 million less than last year's, a drop of 13.2 per cent.

Mr. Bradley: The \$100-million man.

Mr. Gordon: Is that the member for St. Catharines?

Mr. Bradley: I just pointed out the \$100-million man. I read that in your brochure.

The Deputy Speaker: The member who is out of order may be the member for Sudbury, so just carry on.

Mr. Gordon: I refuse to say what the member for St. Catharines told me in the hall the other day about my brochure. I would not repeat it because it would not be fair; it would just create—

An hon. member: Oh, go ahead.

Mr. Gordon: Why does the member for St. Catharines not tell them? Well, we will carry on.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, as a result of a very strong first-quarter performance, this forecast has been revised. The very strong performance of Ontario's economy generated revenues \$11 million above budget projections. The Treasurer has indicated this revenue will be applied to the deficit and, as a result, Ontario's 1984 deficit is now projected at \$2.028 billion.

Members opposite attempt to belittle this government's record of deficit management. I respectfully suggest to them that their view is not shared by the great majority of people in this province. By way of illustration, permit me to call the attention of my friends to an editorial entitled "A Pace-Setting Economy," which appeared in the London Free Press on August 11 this year. The editorial noted that Ontario's economy was growing at a faster rate and was generating more jobs than either the national economy or the other provincial economies.

Mr. Charlton: The member for Sudbury cannot even get his math right. In 1981, more than 50 per cent of the people of this province said you were wrong.

Mr. Gordon: I hope my friends in the opposition parties are listening because they will find this most instructive.

The editorial went on to say: "The pace-setting economic recovery in Ontario is no accident. Much of the credit belongs to the provincial government, which has maintained a more consistent commitment to spending restraint than any other federal or provincial government in Canada...."

Mr. Allen: Who was the editor of that paper?

Mr. Gordon: I am sure it was not owned by somebody in the third party because they do not believe in free enterprise.

Noting that the government has committed the additional revenues generated in the first quarter to reducing Ontario's deficit, the editorial stated: "That's the kind of fiscal management which

helps to contain inflation, hold down taxes, and limit government borrowing so as to make way for more productive, job-creating private investment. It's the kind of responsible restraint that Canadians should get from political leaders throughout the country."

I could not agree more. This government has always provided the people of this province with responsible leadership. The 1984 budget leaves no doubt that this government will continue that tradition in the future.

The budgetary policies of this government have helped to reduce inflation to its lowest level in 13 years. This government's policies have helped to restore investor confidence. This government's policies have ensured the cost-effective delivery of high-quality services to Ontario citizens.

As I have said, the policies articulated in the 1984 budget reflect the type of leadership this government has always provided. Through the budget, the government has expressed its determination to continue its efforts to reduce the deficit.

The government will continue its practice of expenditure control and will reduce direct operating expenditures by some \$75 million. The government will continue its efforts to rationalize the public sector and to make the public sector in this province as economically efficient as possible by identifying those cases where the public interest might be better served by the privatization of public agencies.

The government, through its budgetary policies, has again demonstrated that, unlike some members opposite, it is aware of the line that separates constructive participation in our economy from destructive interference in our economy.

This government has always worked with the people of this province to build a secure, prosperous future for Ontario. The policies introduced in this year's budget will strengthen and build on that partnership and, for that reason, deserve the support of all members.

Mr. Conway: We are trying to figure out what colour the member's hair is.

Mr. Gordon: I am trying to figure out exactly how many members of the official opposition will still be here after the next election.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:23 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Friday, October 26, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, October 26, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

TRIBUTE TO CIVIL SERVANT

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I would like on this day to pay tribute to a very fine public servant who has for the past four and a half years served the members of this Legislature with great distinction, Dr. Linda Grayson. She is in the public gallery to your right, Mr. Speaker, with Mr. Brian Land and some others from the library at the Legislature.

Dr. Grayson is leaving us today after four and a half years in her capacity as chief of the legislative research service. I know my friends the member for Armourdale (Mr. McCaffrey), the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and all members of the House will want to join with me in wishing Dr. Grayson well in her new responsibilities. My friend the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) will well remember our involvement with Dr. Grayson on very important select committees in far and distant parts of this great Dominion.

Dr. Grayson is leaving us after four and a half years to take up her role as the superintendent of information services with the Toronto Board of Education. We wish her well in that capacity.

Let me repeat that Dr. Grayson has done a difficult job well. She has always been very helpful, very charming and very supportive of the activities of members of the Legislature. She has added a real quality and panache to the legislative library service. I thank her for that and I wish her well in her new responsibility.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I in the New Democratic Party would like to associate ourselves with the remarks of the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway).

Dr. Grayson has done a remarkable job in the legislative library in making its research facilities and services available to the ordinary member of the assembly.

When I was first elected in 1975, the library was a relatively passive institution which had an interesting collection of books but very little in the way of services for the ordinary member. We have made tremendous strides in the course of the past nine years, amazing strides I must say, in

providing modern library facilities with a complete and very excellent research service that is available to members of this assembly.

We are deeply grateful for the work of the staff and very appreciative of the very fine leadership Dr. Grayson has given to the library research service in the course of the past four and a half years. We will miss her work very much and we wish her every success in her new duties with the Toronto Board of Education.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I echo and support the words of my two honourable colleagues in paying tribute to Dr. Linda Grayson. I too have had the opportunity of working with her and of seeing the high quality and calibre of her work. It is not easy to work for the 125 masters in this House and to try to keep up with the temperaments of them all.

The work done by her and her staff has been objective and has been put forward with a very high level of research capacity. I have placed great reliance on that research capacity when I have asked for information. It has come back expeditiously and in a fashion one can rely on. I have personally had occasion to use the material to my benefit and, no matter who has ordered it, the research has been objective. It has not been only for a Progressive Conservative or for a member of the opposition parties. She has maintained that level, which is a very difficult task.

I wish her well. I received the letter yesterday informing us she would be leaving the employ of the legislative library. She has given that library and its research program great leadership. As she improves her standard of life, I wish her well and every success. I am sure she has left us with someone who is very ably trained to carry on her work.

I speak on behalf of my colleagues when I say that the Toronto Board of Education will be receiving a very high-level candidate to fill the position she is going to.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know whether it is appropriate, but I would like to take this opportunity to extend my personal thanks, as well as the thanks of all members of the Legislature, to Linda Grayson for the many

services she has performed on behalf of all the members. Thank you very much.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I will miss her very much. She has been most accommodating to every single member. She has 125 solid friends in this Legislature, as well as all the staff with whom she has worked. Thank you very much.

VISITORS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, may I speak on a point? You can make your own interpretation of what that point is. We have a very distinguished visitor in your gallery today.

Mr. Martel: A point of what?

Mr. Speaker: I was going to mention it.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I was ahead of you again. The members are all aware of the presence of our esteemed colleague the former member for St. George, Margaret Campbell, who is sitting in the Speaker's gallery today.

I am honoured that she came today. In my view, there is no person who has made a bigger impact on this Legislature and on the public policy process in this province than Margaret Campbell. She has had a myriad of accomplishments in her life—lawyer, alderman, controller, budget chief, mayoralty candidate, provincial court judge, elected member of this House and dragon-slayer par excellence.

More important, if I may take a moment, I will talk about the areas in which she has pioneered. As the members know, she was one of the leading spokesmen on the question of domestic violence, long before it became fashionable or even a popular issue. She was a trail-blazer in building sensitivities on this issue and in getting the legislative process moving to look at those most important questions. As a result of her efforts, changes were made in the police college curriculum. Police officers were given training to give them greater insight into the question of family violence.

She pressed for the enforcement of family law court orders to protect wives from abuse. She was the first member in this House to table a bill on equal pay for work of equal value. That was on March 14, 1978. In many ways she was ahead of her time. Fortunately, the world is now catching up.

10:10 a.m.

She was the first to table a bill on rent review in this House. That was long before the other parties even thought of this question. She was always leading the fight to remove the inequality that

women have faced in the public service and in the private sector as well.

I am very happy to tell members today that a number of her friends and associates have asked that Mrs. Campbell lend her name to a new fund, and a dinner will be held in the very near future to raise money to bring women into politics. The proceeds of that fund-raising dinner will be allotted to nominated Liberal women candidates in the next provincial campaign to assist them in carrying on the fine work she has done in the past.

We are honoured as a Legislature to have her here today. We are honoured that she is continuing to give, as she has always given in the past, and we are honoured that she is continuing to be a trail-blazer, as she has been in the past.

Mr. Speaker: It is always a pleasure to have Mrs. Campbell with us.

I would ask all honourable members to join me in welcoming another distinguished visitor in the Speaker's gallery in the person of the Honourable Lorne McLaren, Minister of Labour of the Legislative Assembly of Saskatchewan.

MINISTER'S COMMENTS

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: Now that the Minister of Education is in the House—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You make it sound as though it is rare just because I missed yesterday.

Mr. Bradley: No, I was not making that criticism. The Minister of Education is in the House this morning, as she is usually. The only reason I mentioned it is that I did not want to raise a point of privilege yesterday concerning something related to the minister when she was not in the House, because I think she should have a chance to respond.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is usually the Speaker who responds.

Mr. Gillies: There is a point in there somewhere.

Mr. Bradley: I do not know about that.

I want to draw to the Speaker's attention a statement that was made by the minister in the House on the evening of Tuesday, October 23, in which she said, "The member for St. Catharines suggested there was no response to the Association of Large School Boards in Ontario communication."

Mr. Speaker, because she was referring to me, my privileges were called into question at least, because the information she provided is not accurate.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. That is hardly a point of privilege. You may correct the record as far as your own statements are concerned but not the statements of other members. I have mentioned that many times. Please resume your seat.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: What I said was the truth. I said there was not a letter.

Mr. Bradley: You said there was a communication eyeball to eyeball.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is completely out of order.

Mr. Martel: Throw the two of them out.

Mr. Speaker: That is not a bad idea.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ADHERENCE TO MANUAL OF ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Chairman of Management Board with respect to his Manual of Administration.

We have established in the past that he does not understand the manual and, more disturbingly, that the ministers do not understand the manual and the rules contained therein.

He will be aware we had a discussion in this House on the use of crown employees in leadership campaigns of various of his colleagues who are aspiring to lead that party. Is he prepared now to exercise his authority, his interpretation of the Manual of Administration—and I can refer him specifically to the appropriate section—to say that Mr. Lou Parsons is a crown employee under the act and must not be allowed to work in a partisan political way, or is he prepared to go on and allow the continuing politicization of civil servants?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, it is my understanding that Mr. Parsons is not an employee of this government. He is a per diem, part-time chairman of the Toronto Area Transit Operating Authority.

Mr. Epp: Is he not getting paid with public money?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Yes, he is; and so is the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) and he is not an employee.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let me tell my friend he is wrong in his interpretation, unless he can prove otherwise. I would invite him to table his legal opinion or that of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) or that of whoever is telling him what to do on this issue. I would invite him to table it to prove his point. It is our interpretation that he is very clearly wrong.

I refer him to the Manual of Administration on crown employees. I will read the section for his benefit. "A crown employee is a person employed in the service of the crown or any agency of the crown, not including: the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario, the Ontario Northland Transportation System; or other persons excluded from this category by specific legislation." Other than that, employees are people who are under "individual contracts in which the terms of employment are set out." This is clearly the case—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: —in Mr. Parsons's case. Is the minister going to go along and allow the politicization of the civil service? Is this the only case, or is he going to allow this to run throughout the entire civil service? There is a very important principle at stake. The minister is the repository of the values of an independent and separate public service. Does he believe in it? Does he not believe in it? Who is going to enforce it?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Opinions have been received from the Attorney General's department from time to time on political activity, as the honourable member knows. I do not have a recent opinion from the Attorney General on Mr. Parsons per se. Yesterday my colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) referred to some legal opinion I have received. I have not received one on that.

I would be pleased to get a legal opinion on it, but the understanding I have from my staff is that Mr. Parsons is not an employee of this government. He is a part-time, per diem chairman. The simple matter that he is paid out of the funds this government raises does not make him an employee, any more than it does the member. The member gets paid out of the funds, and he is not an employee, nor am I.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, does the Chairman of Management Board not realize this is much more than just a legal matter? In attempting to get a legal interpretation—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: There is a moral principle involved. Is the minister not aware that a Mr. St. Onge of Sudbury, in the field office there with the Ministry of Northern Affairs, was fired not long ago because he sought the Conservative nomination? There is a hearing going on now about his reinstatement.

I have two questions. Why does he not give some precedence to the moral obligation he has?

Why does he permit this person at the lower level of employees to be fired and then let a person at the high level, getting \$90,000 a year, retain his job?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, the two items are not related. I do not know what the member is intimating when he mentions a \$90,000 figure. Mr. Parsons does not get anything even close to that. The two things are not at all related. Mr. Parsons is not an employee.

Mr. Peterson: The minister must understand the principle at stake. The next leader of his party will be the Premier, with phenomenal power in patronage and dispensation of favours, in hiring people and bestowing financial gain upon a large number of people. Obviously, there are a number of people jockeying for those positions now.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Does the minister believe we should allow public servants, crown employees as defined under the government's—it is not mine—Manual of Administration, to take partisan positions now in order to enhance their leadership candidate or their own positions? How widespread is he going to allow this to be? What are the lines? What is a crown employee in his opinion? There are fundamental and important questions here that he has not dealt with.

10:20 a.m.

The minister is the one charged with responsibility for this act. I am asking him to give us his definition of who can and who cannot participate and to table the legal opinion. Surely he owes it not only to his colleagues to prevent them from embarrassing themselves but also, just as important, to the taxpayers of this province who are paying these people while they are involved in partisan political duties. Will he do that?

Hon. Mr. McCague: It all goes back to whether Mr. Parsons is an employee, and he is not an employee. The rules are set down very carefully. I do not have it with me today, but in a July issue of *Topical*, prior to the federal election, what various people had to do if they were going to be involved in any political activity was all set out very clearly. But that was for employees. It is my understanding Mr. Parsons is not an employee.

Mr. Peterson: We will look forward to the minister tabling that opinion in this House.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question to the Minister of Education with respect to the

ongoing strike. Will she be good enough to bring this House up to date on what is happening and the prospects for a settlement? I am sure she is aware that the hardship is mounting day by day. The number of young people and students whose courses and training are in jeopardy is increasing on a daily basis. Will she give us her informed opinion of where the talks are now, where they are headed and whether she has any room for optimism about a quick and speedy settlement?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the honourable member is aware, the talks between the two parties resumed this week, with a mediator chosen and agreed to by both sides on Wednesday evening. An encouraging remark was made by Ms. Katie FitzRandolph, representing the union, on Thursday. It is my understanding that they began to meet again this morning at 10 o'clock. There is no evidence that talks are at an impasse or about to break off or anything of that sort. I hope we will all be optimistic about it.

Mr. Peterson: I could have read that in the newspaper. I would have suspected the minister to be closer than that. Let me go back because, as I said, the pressure is starting to mount.

Interjection.

Mr. Peterson: The minister should not be so disagreeable.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member should not talk about being disagreeable.

Mr. Speaker: Order. If you two want to have a private conversation, it can be accommodated elsewhere.

Mr. Peterson: She is so disagreeable she should be in the opposition.

We discussed in this House some time ago the minister's plans to salvage the potentially ruined courses of some of the students involved. We discussed that at the beginning of the strike and she said she had secret plans. When we asked her what they were, she said she could not tell us. She went on to say those plans were in the hands of the faculty, but the faculty is now on strike.

Interjection.

Mr. Peterson: That is what the minister said. She can check Hansard.

Is the minister moving to put contingency plans into place to save the training of these young people? For example, the advanced motor vehicle mechanics apprenticeship training program at Conestoga College was supposed to be finished very quickly. Now the training and education of these students is in jeopardy because of this strike. Specifically, what is the minister going to do for these young people and for other

students who are in danger of losing their courses?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am sure that if the Leader of the Opposition reads Hansard, he will determine that I said the administrations of the various colleges had plans to deal with circumstances they felt were of specific concern to specific groups of students. It is obvious the educational experience of all students is not in jeopardy at this point. There are some areas of study that tend to be more precarious in that direction than others.

I am aware the administration of each of the colleges is attempting to resolve some of those difficulties by keeping, in some circumstances, the areas of education open so the students may proceed with the kinds of programs that have been established for them, following the plans for teaching that the faculty members had laid down for them.

It would be much more appropriate at this point if we were all to encourage the negotiating parties to complete their negotiations successfully so we might have a bilaterally acceptable agreement that would ensure good relationships within the colleges for the future. Attempting to poke, prod and disturb the negotiations going on at present is anything but productive, and I propose not to do so.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I was very glad to hear the minister's last words, because I think it is very important that anything needlessly provocative should be avoided in this situation.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: Did the minister notice an ad from the Council of Regents to the public that appeared in the *Globe and Mail* and the *Sun* earlier this week? It was an urgent message to the community stating the unnecessary nature of the strike and reiterating the council's opinion that the faculty is not overworked.

Does the minister not believe that this kind of ad from the council is needlessly provocative and a waste of public dollars? Will she advise Mr. Williams and the council that such public relations, while mediation is under way, is in the very worst possible public interest?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would agree that there might be some provocation attached to such activities. I would agree as well that some of the activities that have been pursued by the Ontario Public Service Employees Union could be equally provocative. Therefore, I would ask both sides to refrain from indulging in such

antics until we can achieve a negotiated settlement in the circumstances.

Mr. Peterson: I know the minister will use her authority and her powers of moral suasion to prevent this thing from being provocative, following her own style in solving these things. Does she not think it is an outrageous waste of money to advertise in a number of local dailies and perhaps others as well when one of the broad issues at stake here is the funding of our post-secondary system? I do not know what the cost is—\$10,000 or \$20,000—but that is \$10,000 or \$20,000 that could very well go into training young people for jobs of the future. Does she not think that is an outrageous waste of money? As the minister, she should put her foot down and say, "That is unacceptable."

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member raises an interesting point that I shall consider seriously, but I would like him to remember that the provincial contribution to the college system last year was getting fairly close to \$500 million. That is not a small amount of money, in spite of the member's huge ego and his concept that large amounts of money are relatively insignificant to taxpayers.

It is the responsibility of each person within the college system to ensure that everyone gets the best value for every dollar spent. I would hope that would be the ambition and goal of all those involved in these negotiations, whether they be members of faculty or members of the administration of the college system.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade. The minister will be aware that the report of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses shows that at the end of 1983, the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) has \$235,319 in his riding war chest for the leadership campaign, the riding of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) has \$61,205 and the Minister of Industry and Trade has \$24,861 in Muskoka.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question, please.

Mr. Swart: Would the minister not agree that through tax credits, the Ontario Treasury has funded at least \$150,000 of that more than \$300,000 and that the total cost to the Treasury, depending on expenditures and the number of leadership candidates, could be many hundreds of thousands of dollars?

Recognizing this and the fact that senior officials on the public payroll—such as Lou

Parsons, as inappropriate as that may be—are being used as campaign managers—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: —as the past Treasurer of this province who passes himself off as a fiscal conservative, would the minister not think there should be limits on leadership campaign expenditures and full disclosure of where the funds are obtained?

10:30 a.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would have thought a question would have been addressed to me about my ministry, not about the leadership campaign. I do not think a minister, member or candidate should be answering that question individually. I will simply say the honourable member has jumped to the conclusion that the moneys in the riding associations are for the leadership campaign. He has assumed that is all there is.

Mr. Swart: Can the minister, who is a former Treasurer, assure this House that none of those funds in the riding associations, including his, will be used in the leadership campaign?

The riding of the Treasurer, St. Andrew-St. Patrick, received better than \$12,000 from the nursing home industry in 1982, and the minister's own riding last year received more than half of its contributions of more than \$100 from nursing homes and a medical lab.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: Recognizing the minister received that kind of money from one source, and being conscious of the trend towards freedom of information generally in our society and the accepted principle of disclosure, how can he defend his statement in the *Globe and Mail* that he will not disclose the source of his funds?

Hon. F. S. Miller: My friend should ask the chairman of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses of Ontario to define the rules. No one assumes that any riding expenses or accounts come to a candidate. Indeed, those are specifically excluded unless they are given freely to anyone, just as the member gets his money.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the minister is aware no one is saying that what he proposes to do is illegal. We are just saying it is improper.

Since this activity he is undertaking is all about leadership, why does he not simply get up and announce that his campaign chairman has taken a leave of absence for the period of the campaign, that he will not accept any funds that were raised

for constituency purposes and that he will declare a limit on his campaign which is audited and reportable? Why does he not do that, set a benchmark for the other candidates who come in and try to stay ahead of Darcy McKeough before he even gets into the act?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the numbers the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) read into the record speak volumes. I do not have any money.

Mr. Swart: Even though the Liberals do not set maximums and do not provide for disclosure in their leadership campaigns, and even though the Conservative Party has not in the past, does the minister not recognize that the New Democratic Party in its provincial leadership campaign set a maximum limit of \$30,000, which no leadership candidate went over?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now to the question.

Mr. Swart: By spending that small amount, we got the best leader of any of the three parties.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: Will the minister not agree that would be a good principle to follow?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am reminded of the Sears jingle I hear on the radio all the time, "You get your money's worth at Sears, your money's worth and more." That is perhaps what happened with the member's party.

If the three parties in this room looked at their bank accounts, I suspect the only party with money in the bank would be the NDP. That is because its system of collecting is at source in a rather interesting way.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: My sanctimonious friend the member for Welland-Thorold is absolutely wrong in his interpretation of the Ontario Liberal Party.

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of privilege.

Mr. Peterson: Perhaps he wants to stand in his place and correct the record.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, he is factually incorrect.

Mr. Speaker: I cannot make a judgement on that. I do not know.

Mr. Peterson: I am telling you it is a matter of record and you may want to afford him the opportunity as the honourable gentleman that he is to stand in his place and admit he is wrong. I agree with everything he says about those guys

today, and I give him credit for being half right, but he is half wrong—

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, perhaps you will give me—

Mr. Speaker: No, I will not. Order. Please resume your seats.

AMATEUR HOCKEY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General.

Mr. Speaker: I hope he will address the matters of the ministry.

Mr. Martel: With some difficulty, because the minister I want to address is absent. In the absence of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz), I will ask the Attorney General a question involving violence since he is responsible for that.

Is the minister aware of a double-A bantam game played on October 7 involving two teams of kids, the Toros and the Royals, all under age 14? One young lad, Shane Yeo, was checked into the boards from behind and had a badly bruised shoulder. A second boy, Anthony Scilipoti, suffered a dislocated shoulder in an incident that happened well behind the play. A third boy, Danny Worboys, suffered a broken collarbone on a check from behind into the boards. A fourth boy, Greg Rogers, was hit with a vicious high stick, suffering lacerations and a large bruise. They lent a fifth player, Johnny Jelaca, to another team and, according to the letter I received, he also got nailed in the corner against the boards and suffered a broken collarbone.

That is five young people in one game. How much longer is this government prepared to tolerate that kind of conduct in arenas when it would not tolerate it on the streets of Toronto or anywhere else in this province?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the incidents to which the honourable member refers are very disturbing. I think the members know of my concern over the years.

I must admit that referring to the Attorney General as the minister responsible for violence caught me off guard a little, because everybody knows that as an athlete many years ago I was somewhat of a pussycat. I am not quite sure where it leads us to characterize me as the minister responsible for violence.

Seriously, I do share the member's concern with respect to this excessive and often mindless violence. I know this is a concern shared by the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. He is very concerned about the overall organization of

amateur hockey in this province as it relates to very distressing incidents such as the one the member has just related to the House.

We in this province have always recognized the importance of allowing amateur hockey to govern itself with minimal interference from the government. We have done that on the basis that amateur hockey has always relied on a very large majority of volunteers to field the teams, coach the teams and provide the other services that are necessary.

Personally, and I am not speaking as the Attorney General but as the father of three hockey-playing sons and two hockey-playing daughters, I feel that amateur hockey in this province has not taken its responsibilities seriously enough in this area.

10:40 a.m.

Mr. Martel: In the same letter I received from the general manager and coach of the team, he said one of the boys was injured and they took him to the hospital. Shortly thereafter, a second boy was injured. They did not have stretchers for the second boy. The referee ordered the boy lifted from the ice without the aid of a stretcher and he too was ultimately taken to hospital.

Where is amateur sport's teaching of referees, coaches and trainers that they will allow a youngster to be picked up without a stretcher, not knowing the gravity of his injury, to carry him off the ice so the game can continue? This is the sort of attitude that prevails. I want to know when we will have had enough and we will return the game to the kids so they can learn the skills of hockey and enjoy the game, rather than serving the egos of some of the people who are at the top controlling this game?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I would hope the very disturbing additional incident the honourable member has related to the House would be a very isolated incident. It certainly has been my experience that while I have great concerns about what goes on in many of the arenas throughout this province, the care of the injured has usually been something that has been given very high priority. I have had a good deal to say about this issue over the years, and we are all familiar with some of the distressing situations.

Mr. Foulds: What have you done? Talk is cheap.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Like everything else, we will ask what the member is doing about it because this—

Mr. Foulds: You are the government.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The members in that party have—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: I might answer the Attorney General. We have attempted to highlight this before the public. We intend to take it to the teaching organizations within the week to see if we can get them to help.

This incident happened in the first year of bodily contact between these boys. They went from no bodily contact to bodily contact. In a report, of which I sent the Attorney General a copy, we made a recommendation that there should be a transitional year where the skill of bodily contact is actually taught, as opposed to what is happening now. If that recommendation had been accepted by the leagues, this sort of thing would not have occurred. The coach complains in his letter about the number of incidents because there is no transitional year and no training.

When are we going to get down to the nitty-gritty and prevent youngsters from being hurt? Despite all the Attorney General said, this government and this Legislature has a responsibility to those young people. The mayhem is still there and the injuries are still occurring.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I agree that we do have a responsibility. The difficulty is determining the degree of that responsibility. All of us, as members of the Legislature, have specific responsibilities in our own communities. I agree with the honourable member that the playing of hockey is obviously an important and vital part of our social fabric, but I do have a little difficulty with some of his colleagues who believe the government of Ontario should play the role of Big Brother when it comes to amateur sport and when it comes to the involvement of many tens of thousands of people who are giving of their time on a voluntary basis.

I do not doubt, rather I applaud, the sincerity of the member for bringing these issues to our attention. They are very important issues, but I am not convinced they can be solved by the government of Ontario taking over the administration of amateur hockey in this province. I hope, and the member's colleagues certainly have suggested it, that the member's sincerity, which I accept, will be infectious and all of us will be aware of the leadership role we have to play in our own communities with respect to these very real concerns.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Education. Can the minister tell me what she is doing to save the careers of student nurses who are caught in the present college strike? I have the case of Mrs. Minoque of Blenheim. This mother of four children, who is educating herself for a nurse's position, requires 1,645 hours of clinical study, and 525 of those hours must be in the final 14 weeks of the course.

The course ends on July 26, and the national exams are held in the first week of August. The problem here is that it is a national exam over which we have little influence—or perhaps the province does have influence now—and the clinical studies cannot be altered because of the time periods in hospitals and so on.

What assurance can the minister give these ladies that their education will not be wasted?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe there need be total rigidity regarding the scheduling of the clinical experience hours and the academic study portions. We have asked the colleges, the College of Nurses of Ontario and the hospitals that are attached to college faculties of nursing, to try to be as flexible as possible in order to accommodate the requirements of nurses who have to meet national exam date deadlines in order that they will not have their education program jeopardized.

It is my feeling, and certainly my understanding, that there is no desire on the part of any of those bodies to retain or to establish such rigidities as would in fact produce such jeopardy.

Mr. McGuigan: On a related issue, I have a chap who is just two weeks away from getting his mechanic's licence. The college workers have said they will not release his standings so that he might be given his licence lacking those two weeks. What hope can the minister give a person in this situation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If he has completed his course and if the assessment carried out during that course is in fact part of the college records, there is no reason at all that this information cannot be gleaned. It would seem to me that his licence, however, depends on the final examination, which is not necessarily a college examination. If the member will give me the details of that circumstance, I will certainly look into it.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Solicitor General. Is he aware of

the comments made by his colleague the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) in this House on Monday, October 22, in which he said: "Mr. Speaker, I am not going to waffle. I made the statement earlier that I recommend mandatory inquests. I have made a commitment in this House in that respect. I have made a commitment to the media in that respect. Why keep bringing it up with me? Why does the honourable member not take it up with the Solicitor General?"

I am taking it up with the Solicitor General now. Will he explain why he has publicly taken a position in opposition to his colleague who is responsible for the occupational health and safety of workers in this province? When can we expect him to change government policy and bring in mandatory inquests as requested by the labour movement in this province?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour has stated that he would like to see mandatory inquests. He has made that position known to this House and to the public.

I have reviewed the matter with the chief coroner of this province, who reviews all mandatory inquests. The legislation states that there are certain situations in which there are mandatory inquests, and they are held.

I am not yet convinced it is necessary or totally worth while to have an inquest in each and every situation. The coroner can call one. I can call one and direct the coroner to have one. Indeed, were any of the opposition members to say in a particular situation that they thought there should be an inquest, I am sure I would accommodate that request, as would the coroner.

But there are certain situations in which the coroner makes a preliminary investigation and concludes that there would be nothing worth while or no recommendations flowing out of that death to serve the purpose of having a full inquest.

10:50 a.m.

Those decisions are left to the discretion of the coroner. When one looks at the statistics and at the background, very few inquests are held in deaths where, if one were to have those inquests, they would serve no useful purpose.

Mr. Wildman: Does the minister not understand that when it is left to the discretion of the coroner, in too many cases the representatives of the workers or their families have to fight publicly, often in the press, to persuade the coroner to hold an inquest?

If he does not understand that and if he tries to argue that in most cases inquests are already

held, then why on earth is he opposed to making them mandatory?

Finally, if he believes there are many cases in which it would be redundant or not useful to hold an inquest, because there have already been similar inquests, why on earth is it the law that we have mandatory inquests in mining deaths? Surely if we treat workers in the mining industry one way, that is correct and useful, then we should be treating all workers in a similar manner.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I would submit that it is not necessary—nor has it been in the past, nor will it be in the future—to have an argument or a fight by the family to have inquests by any of the coroners or by me. Indeed, I think the opposite is the case; inquests are held very expeditiously.

I would like to bring to the honourable member's attention that if we were looking at just some of the examples—and I do not say this in a light way—when one calls for mandatory inquests for all workers, one could then have inquests out of each and every automobile accident in which workers were involved.

Mr. Wildman: Oh, come off it.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: That is one example that people put forward of where we would have automatic inquests.

Mr. Wildman: What a ridiculous argument.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: I hear the interjections of the opposition there, and they are nattering away. But does it change the fact when they call for mandatory inquests? That is where they have not looked at the total picture.

Mr. Wildman: We are talking about work place deaths.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: We have a few cases, and I can give examples, in which inquests were not called. We have had a number of inquests into deaths this year, and there are very few instances out of all the deaths—I think 13—in which inquests were not held. In some of them it is very obvious why those deaths occurred, and I am advised that an inquest would not have revealed any more information.

Although I understand this request and acknowledge it, I have not yet come to the conclusion that the public or the workers would be served by making an inquest mandatory in each and every instance.

LABOUR DISPUTES

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware of the difficult circumstances that

the community of Fort Erie is encountering in relation to labour disputes in local industries that are seriously affecting the economy of the area?

Can the minister inform the Legislature today what steps his ministry is taking to resolve the labour disputes: that is, the strike between Horton CBI and the United Steelworkers, which is in its ninth month, and also the present strike between Fleet Aerospace and Frontier Lodge 171, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, involving 529 employees, which is now entering its third week?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, taking the second dispute and discussing it first, I can say that our mediation efforts there are ongoing. I understand they are not meeting at the present time, but our people are available and ready to move in. In fact, I understand they have attempted to do so, but both parties have to be prepared to talk.

I agree with the honourable member that when 599 persons are involved, it is a very serious matter, particularly in an area such as Fort Erie. I want to assure him that our people are prepared and anxious to be of assistance and have been attempting to assist. I want to emphasize that.

Horton CBI is a completely different matter. The member is right: it is in its ninth month. It is a very serious, bad situation, but I am afraid the parties are entrenched. It is very difficult to get them together. There are a lot of complexities involved in that dispute. It is more complex than most and one with which our people have been wrestling, but obviously without much success to date.

Mr. Haggerty: Is the minister aware the agreement between the federal and Ontario governments will contribute \$39.9 million in support of Canada's aerospace industry for partners with MBB of West Germany to invest a total of \$76 million towards the development and manufacture of light twin-engine helicopters?

MBB and Fleet Aerospace will invest \$37.7 million in the venture, creating 700 possible new jobs. The involvement of the provincial government as a partner in this is around \$14 million.

What steps is the Ontario government taking to dispel rumours that have appeared in local newspapers that MBB of West Germany is considering other alternatives, such as pulling out of the agreement, if the labour dispute at Fleet Aerospace is allowed to continue?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am aware of the original circumstances of the commitment by the provincial government because I am a member of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development

and was in attendance at the two or three meetings in which that was actively discussed. I was quite excited about that project. It would be a brand-new industry for Ontario, and particularly for the area of the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) which, as I said earlier, has been particularly hurt by unemployment.

I am not aware of the speculation the member reports has been in the local media. That has not been brought to my attention by anyone. It has not been a matter for discussion at the BILD meetings. I will be pleased to look into it for the member.

IDEA CORP. PRESIDENCY

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, does the Minister of Industry and Trade not think it is his responsibility to give this House a clear statement of the reasons it was necessary to terminate the presidency of Brian St. John of the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp. at a cost of \$115,000 to the taxpayers of Ontario?

What were the "irreconcilable differences" between the minister and Mr. St. John? Does he think Mr. Ian Macdonald can run the corporation that is supposed to be the cornerstone of BILD on a part-time basis? What the devil is going on there: anything?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, first, I think it should be understood that I did not terminate Mr. St. John. The assumption I did is wrong. I simply said, and I repeat here for the record, that when one has two strong-willed people who I would hope are intelligent, such as he and I, one sometimes has differences of opinion. There were differences of opinion.

Mr. St. John chose to review the contract he signed knowing he was taking on a job that was new and to some degree perilous since his ability to maintain it would be dependent upon his ability to perform. He had a clause in the contract, which I am told is quite standard in that type of executive contract, saying that if his contract was terminated in advance of a certain number of years, then the following settlement would be made on termination.

I am told that is what happened. As far as irreconcilable differences, I could not define them as "irreconcilable" at all. Perhaps they were differences of style.

I do want to say one thing. If there is a criticism of crown corporations made in parliaments around this world, it is generally that politicians do not pay attention to them. In this case, if there was any cause for Mr. St. John's leaving, it is

because this minister was paying attention to it. That, in turn, caused some friction.

Mr. Foulds: Will the minister be good enough to tell us what the friction was? Where does he think the IDEA Corp. should go? What does he think its mandate is? Why has it been such a monumental failure?

Hon. F. S. Miller: First, it has not been a monumental failure.

Mr. Foulds: Why did the minister terminate him?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: If the honourable member would wait just a second, it has not been a smashing success either. Let us get in the middle.

Mr. McClellan: It was a moderate failure.

11 a.m.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Its mandate was set by the BILD committee about two years ago in response to a proposal made by the chairman and president of the IDEA Corp., who said it should be a venture capital organization.

It went through two years and made certain investments. It was time for us to review the business plan of the company. It was also time to approve the 1984-85 budget. We then asked for a routine review of the mandate. The company and the board of directors reviewed it, said they believed the venture capital mandate was still appropriate, suggested there were other things it could do and presented them to the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development.

BILD reviewed them and accepted the proposal for the completion option, as it was called, which meant that it should continue to be a venture capital entity while it determined whether the market was really there for venture capital. In other words, we were making progress, which did not tell us whether it should be continued as a venture capital organization or not, but at least it was successful enough to justify going on. That is what happened.

I then asked for a business plan. The business plan was not forthcoming. I put on some pressure for a business plan. At that point, there was a bit of friction, but it is the kind of friction that very often happens in a person's home. It was not yelling or screaming. It was the kind of thing that happens which causes a person to say, "I disagree with you."

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, my friend the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) is not right. I think IDEA Corp. was defined a few years ago as a centrepiece of BILD. If the member for Bellwoods is not right in suggesting

that IDEA Corp. has been a moderate failure, what can the Minister of Industry and Trade tell the people of Bracebridge about the two or three principal achievements of BILD over the past two or three years, given the millions of dollars we have made available to that centrepiece of the BILD program?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I want to reaffirm one thing. BILD and I have confidence in the current mandate of IDEA Corp. and feel that it will succeed with it. I do not want to leave any wrong impression in my colleagues' minds through not saying we have approved the mandate. We feel it is still an appropriate mandate and we feel it is making progress.

In terms of what BILD did, that is an interesting question. All I heard from the members over there—

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I said to name specifically two or three of the achievements of IDEA Corp.

Mr. Speaker: Order. We heard your question quite clearly.

Hon. F. S. Miller: He should come to my riding and pose the question. I do not suppose the people of Huntsville—

Mr. Conway: I said of IDEA Corp.

Hon. F. S. Miller: The member asked me about BILD. Go back to the record.

[Later]

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I have not had a chance to look at the record, but I have had the opportunity to do something equally as good, if not better, in that I have talked to the member for Bellwoods and the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) who tell me that I did misspeak myself in my supplementary question to the Minister of Industry and Trade.

I inadvertently said Board of Industrial Leadership and Development and not the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp., and I regret that. The minister was right, I was wrong and I apologize. It must be a Friday morning error.

PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS AT ONTARIO HYDRO

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I want to address my question to the Minister of Energy. It concerns a problem that is of concern in my area and that I think is a concern for people all across the province with respect to a decision by Ontario Hydro to refuse to make automatic deductions for

payroll contributions to the Canada savings bonds program.

I think the minister as a good citizen of the nation of Canada would like to see participation by public corporation employees in the future of the Canadian nation, and I ask what he intends to do to reverse the decision by Ontario Hydro that it will not make deductions for Canada savings bonds purchases through payroll deductions.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I respect the honourable member's enthusiasm about good citizenship. I want to tell him that Ontario Hydro, its board and its employees are probably setting an example for the rest of Canada in that regard.

Hydro cancelled the payroll deduction plan for Canada savings bonds as a cost-saving measure. It was costing the corporation some \$70,000 a year, of which it was getting back about \$8,000 from the Bank of Canada in return for performing that service.

At the time they took these steps, they felt reasonably confident, because of a low level of participation in the payroll deduction plan, that it would not cause any problems with their employees. Subsequently, after some urging from members of the Hydro employee groups, Hydro did make an arrangement with the Bank of Canada whereby the Hydro Electrical Power Credit Union of Ontario Employees, HEPCOE, is now able to make payroll deductions and employees are able to avail themselves of a program through that credit union. That is a one-year arrangement for next year, subject to approval by the Bank of Canada. It probably goes some measure towards addressing the concern of these employees.

Mr. Elston: I appreciate the arrangements that have been made by the minister's offices in allowing the load to be taken off Ontario Hydro and placing it on the shoulders of the members of the credit union. The minister might remember and perhaps understand that not all employees of that great corporation are members of the credit union and, therefore, they would still not be able to participate in the automatic payroll deduction purchase of Canada savings bonds.

Would the minister intervene with Ontario Hydro directly, concluding from his own analysis of the expenditures made by Ontario Hydro that there are other areas in which the great corporation might well save itself money that would match the savings it is making by refusing to allow its workers to invest directly in the purchase of Canada savings bonds? Perhaps he could relate to the Legislative Assembly what deductions, or at least which programs, he feels

Ontario Hydro may very well be able to substitute for its decision on the Canada savings bond question.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I would be delighted to take the advice of the member and take up the subject with Ontario Hydro to ask them to give further consideration to the decision.

REPORT ON RENT REVIEW

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations with respect to the Commission of Inquiry into Residential Tenancies.

Yesterday the Toronto Star ran a story, allegedly full of details about the Thom commission report. Today in the Toronto Sun the minister repudiates the Star's story that there will be permanent controls and suggests that is not what is in the commission report either. How much longer are we going to have a dribbling out of the details of the commission report in the daily press? When will the minister do us the courtesy of tabling the commission report in the assembly, so we can all see what is in it?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I mean this with a great deal of respect. I have no knowledge of how that purported leak occurred through an Ottawa correspondent. I have made inquiries and I am continuing to have my deputy make inquiries. The message I gave yesterday to that reporter, and I think he reported it accurately, is that there is no question of whether rent review and rent controls are going to remain in place. That was not part of the commissioner's mandate. That was taken for granted.

He chose to divide his mandate into two phases. Phase 1 was to come back with some recommendations for the government's consideration regarding ways in which the present act might be amended to adjust it to create a greater degree of equity with respect to landlords and tenants. To suggest that tenants or anyone should be awaiting news of whether rent reviews or rent controls are going to stay in place is not the issue. Mr. Thom was not given that mandate. He was specifically told that was not an issue before him.

I repeat that I will be tabling the report in this House before the end of the month.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. McClellan: I assume we will have it next week. We have had promises before, but somehow I believe this one. I think we will have it next week, and we look forward to receiving it—not that I did not believe the other promises; I was simply disappointed.

Is the minister currently drafting legislation based upon the recommendations of the commission of inquiry? If he is not doing it now, what will the process be for producing legislation based on the commission of inquiry report? When will we see a draft of the government's proposals with respect to a new model rent review program?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: An interministerial committee is already in place and at work reviewing the material in the report. It will move expeditiously and go through those recommendations and proposals flowing from the Thom report. The comments the government will receive with respect to the report will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible. That is all I can tell the honourable member at this time.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, bearing in mind this report will be full of very long and exhaustive readings of opinions expressed to the commission, does the minister not feel it would be appropriate to allow the opposition parties at least to have a lengthy time for reviewing the recommendations? Then the opposition parties can be prepared for the time when his ministry wants to bring in his legislative response to that commission. We can be prepared to speak to him directly on the issues that are being developed in that report. Can the minister tell us when he will allow us to participate in the review of this material?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, when a report such as that of the commission of inquiry is tabled, copies are distributed to all members and distributed widely to the public. All members will have an opportunity to review it. When the government responds to the report in whatever method it determines is appropriate, then the opposition will have an opportunity to criticize or commend whatever steps the government chooses to take.

WOMEN'S DETOX CENTRE

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Social Development and will roll my supplementary right into the original question, so that he will be aware of all this and be able to answer it.

In view of the alleged concern of the government for the welfare of women in Ontario and the government's supposed desire to deliver social and health services in as efficient a manner as possible; in view of the fact that the nearest Canadian women's detoxification centre for Niagara Peninsula residents is in Kitchener; since women alcoholics who are treated in hospital

beds incur a cost of \$265 a day, compared to \$27.50 a day in a detox centre; and since inquiries are made at the men's detox centre several times a week for a facility for women, is the government prepared to give approval for funding for a five-bed women's detox centre at Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines? Because this proposal contemplates co-ordination with the men's detox centre, it will mean an allocation of \$130,000 rather than the normal \$300,000.

I ask this in view of the fact the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) is not here to answer it. I know the provincial secretary will be very familiar with this issue and I ask that he give us an immediate assurance that will be done.

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, as the member for St. Catharines knows, the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development does not have funds at its disposal for this sort of thing and, therefore, the provincial secretary cannot answer yes or no to that question. I know it is under active consideration and the Minister of Health will be pleased to respond to it on another day.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

UNITED JEWISH WELFARE FUND ACT

Mr. Cousens moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, first reading of Bill Pr31, An Act respecting the United Jewish Welfare Fund.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND ECONOMICS

The Deputy Chairman: We are considering the estimates of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, page G-92. The Treasurer would like to begin with a few opening words.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to present the estimates of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics for the second time.

I would like to introduce to the members of the committee of supply my new deputy, Brock Smith, who is sitting under the gallery. He will be joining me, perhaps after the opening round of remarks.

Mr. Conway: I think you would look better with Duncan Allan.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Many of us have prospered with Duncan. Indeed, I would be happy to have him back working for me as well, with Brock.

Mr. Conway: He is Darcy's man.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Brock worked for Darcy too.

Mr. Nixon: Would you say a word or two about the deputy?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will.

I worked with Brock Smith at the then Ministry of Industry and Tourism, when my assistant deputy ministers were Brock Smith, and before him Duncan Allan. Having worked with Brock in Industry and Tourism, where he served me well, I can attest to the members of the committee, who, I know, will be anxious to get to know him even more over time, that Brock is an intelligent, well-respected and dedicated public servant who brings a great deal of ingenuity and skill to his job at Treasury.

Mr. Conway: You mean he will make a good campaign manager.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We have enough.

Brock was also my assistant deputy minister at Treasury and he served my predecessor in that capacity. He went on to become Deputy Minister of the Environment. Then the Premier (Mr. Davis) selected him, at a relatively early point in his career, to assume the responsibilities of Deputy Treasurer. I think he is a fine choice to lead our excellent team of talented professionals. I feel particularly fortunate to have Brock join me as deputy.

11:20 a.m.

To set the context for our discussions, I want to begin by providing the committee with an overview of the performance of the economy since our budget. I will discuss some of our major budget initiatives and how they have gone. I will then turn to some federal-provincial issues to review some of the key issues both governments should now be addressing.

Ontario's overall economic growth is indeed strong. Current indicators show that the Ontario economy is outperforming that of the rest of Canada and even our own budget projections.

Mr. Haggerty: It is a good thing we have the automobile industry in Ontario. That is the only thing that is saving us.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They count for something.

We now believe that real GPP growth for 1984 will be five per cent, compared with the 4.7 per cent expected at budget time. The projected Ontario level surpasses the 4.2 per cent growth rate widely forecast for Canada as a whole. Here in Ontario retail sales have risen by 9.9 per cent for the first eight months of 1984, compared with

the same period in 1983. Manufacturing shipments in the first seven months are up by 20.8 per cent. Canadian steel production, largely centred in Ontario, is up by 16.8 per cent and new car sales in the province are up by 21.6 per cent.

Employment, of course, is our bottom line. The indicators I have just listed translate into more jobs for our people. Since May, 42,000 jobs have been created in this province, continuing the upward trend that has prevailed since the recovery began. Ontario employment has increased by 282,000 since the recession low in November 1982. Our employment is now higher than it has ever been.

Job creation has been strong almost across the board, with the manufacturing trade, finance and service sectors all recording solid employment gains. The recovery has contributed to a reduction of youth unemployment from 17.5 per cent in September 1982 to 14.9 per cent in September 1984. We have a firm commitment to expansion of youth employment opportunities, and this will continue to rank as the top economic priority.

There are two major reasons our projected economic growth rate has increased since the budget: new investment spending by business and higher than expected growth in the US economy. The confidence of the business community in Ontario is most heartening. New nonresidential business investment spending will likely increase by 9.4 per cent this year, compared with the budget forecast of 4.7 per cent.

The automotive industry, for example, has recently committed more than \$2 billion to new investments in Ontario. General Motors has announced it will spend more than \$1 billion to expand its operations in Ottawa and St. Catharines, American Motors has allocated \$746 million to build an assembly plant in Brampton and Honda has decided to construct a \$100-million plant in the Alliston area. These initiatives will stimulate our economy, not only in 1985 in a major way but also in future years.

These positive developments outweigh the impact, particularly on the housing market, of the rise in interest rates earlier this year; however, housing market prospects are improving following recent mortgage rate decreases.

Mr. Nixon: The Treasurer is certainly commanding a lot of attention on his own side. They are good, loyal supporters.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: At least we have back-bench people—

Mr. Nixon: One out of two.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: One out of two is not bad. That is all it takes. We will canvass the chairman later.

Mr. Foulds: I think he is a McKeough or Miller man myself.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Does my friend think so?

Mr. Robinson: No, no.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. We are slipping off topic.

Mr. Robinson: To correct the record—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If he promises his support, I will sit down now.

The economic outlook for Ontario for the rest of 1984 is favourable. I believe the economy's growth will continue through 1985. Our export markets will strengthen further next year, largely because of the sustained US growth.

Mr. Haggerty: Which crystal ball are you looking at?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The same one I used in May, which we can tell was not optimistic enough.

At home, consumer spending will continue to rise as higher employment generates gains in real income. Should interest rates increase significantly again, prospects for 1985 could be adversely affected. I am confident, however, that those responsible for monetary policy in the United States and Canada now realize the extraordinarily severe economic costs of such action.

The bright prognosis I have outlined for the Ontario economy contrasts sharply with the usually pessimistic scenario predicted by the Conference Board of Canada.

Mr. Nixon: The Treasurer read this speech once already.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did not read it.

Mr. Nixon: I am going to read mine again. Maybe we should just quit.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Carried. Dispense.

The Conference Board does recognize that Ontario will be the fastest-growing province in 1984. But the board's forecast for 1985 is based on the premise that Canada is on the brink of an economic slowdown caused mainly by rising interest rates. In fact, there is no evidence that an economic downturn is impending, and I do not consider the board's forecast plausible. As far as I can determine, the Conference Board is the only major forecaster predicting imminent economic recession. Indeed, it predicted one for just this past summer.

One of the most encouraging trends, and a further sign of our economy's strength, is the reduction of the inflation rate. In Canada, the latest reported rate for September shows a rise of only 3.8 per cent. Private sector wage settlements in Canada have also been tempered to an increase of only 2.1 per cent.

This transition to a lower-inflation environment has been smoothed by public sector restraint. All levels of government must continue to practise restraint to preserve the foundations for a sustained economic expansion based on a revitalized private sector.

It is important to remember it was 10 years ago that we embarked on a very deliberate restraint agenda, the first government in Canada to do so. Compared with other jurisdictions we have been highly successful in containing the growth of the public sector.

Through efficient management we have maintained high levels of service while holding spending per resident to a level that is now the lowest of any province. We also have the fewest civil servants per 1,000 people and the lowest deficit per capita of all the provinces.

Our public service has become leaner. The number of executive positions in government ministries has dropped by 15 per cent since 1976, and the public service as a whole has been reduced by 6,700 positions since the restraint program began in 1975.

In Ontario, we have our provincial deficit under control. The budget projected net cash requirements this year of \$2,039,000,000, down from \$2,289,000,000 required last year and significantly down from the expected \$2.7 billion for last year. Our first-quarter financial report for the current fiscal year already revised our deficit estimate downward to \$2,028,000,000, and the second-quarter update on those numbers will be released some time next week.

In the past year, strong financial management has allowed us to reduce Ontario government and Ontario Hydro borrowing by about \$1 billion, or 20 per cent. By preserving our attractiveness to the financial markets we secure lower interest rates, which keep our borrowing, and therefore taxes and deficits, down.

As part of our restraint strategy, we have encouraged public sector efficiency at the local level as well as at the provincial level. This year's public sector restraint program is on target. Compensation increases for more than 40 per cent of public sector employees have now been reported, and the weighted average increase is

consistent with the guidelines. This transition to an environment of low inflation and moderate wage settlements must be matched by the public sector.

Over the past decade, Ontario has been a leader in designing and implementing restraint measures that have gradually contained public sector growth and saved us from having to institute drastic restraint measures seen elsewhere in recent years. It is also worthy of note that Ontario is leading the way in public sector restraint programs that are fair and equitable to public sector employees and to taxpayers, who ultimately pay the bills.

I believe we must continue to impose fiscal restraint on the public sector and we must do so with a clear understanding that we cannot afford wage settlements in the public sector that outpace those of the private sector.

11:30 a.m.

This brings me to the key role that the arbitration process plays in public sector wage settlements. More than 40 per cent of unionized employees have arbitration as their final dispute resolution mechanism in lieu of the right to strike. To be fair to all parties, arbitrators have the responsibility to provide an award that would approximate a free market process. That, of course, requires taking into account the availability of persons qualified for the job.

In my view, it also requires, during the current restraint program, that the arbitrator take into account the taxpayers' ability to pay. Taxpayers should not be required to finance excessive wage increases, nor should the public purse insulate public sector employees from the realities of the marketplace that those in the private sector must accept.

I believe we should be governed by a clear set of principles for responsible action. In this regard, government should be guided by certain principles in setting compensation levels for public sector employees. In particular, no automatic allowance should be given for missed gains because of the restraint program. Public sector increases should not, as a rule, exceed those in the private sector. Compensation increases should take into account the taxpayers' ability to pay. Pay increases should be related to explicit performance criteria, and emphasis should be placed on providing the public with better value for money.

The budget maintained our commitment to productivity and efficiency. This approach frees resources for major new investments in our

economic transformation and especially in the long-term future prospects for our young people.

In developing our plans to expand youth opportunities, we chose to adopt a strategic long-term approach that goes to the heart of the problem. Our initiatives are designed to provide more effective support to those young people with little education and less experience, those who lack the skills and confidence they need to find or hold a job. That target group is 20 per cent of the young unemployed and accounts for almost half the time spent out of work by youth.

We have now consolidated and co-ordinated all our programs that address the employment and training problems of young people. Our hotline has been in operation since June. So far, 7,000 calls have been received and more than 3,000 job vacancies for young people have been identified.

Most of our budget training and employment measures are now operating. I thought the members might be interested in a progress report.

1. Ken Dryden is working with local leaders to organize youth trusts in 15 communities. This network will mobilize the private sector to help the hard-to-employ. Business firms will be approached to provide funding, training positions, counselling and jobs.

2. The Ontario Youth Corps program is designed to put disadvantaged young people to work performing useful community services. We have committed \$15 million to the municipal component, which has approved 720 projects creating 2,000 opportunities in 260 municipalities. A further \$10 million has been allocated to create 3,100 jobs under the second component, run through provincial ministries and community agencies.

3. The residential centres program gives our most disadvantaged youth a chance to live in a stable environment and obtain intensive training in basic life, work and educational skills. Two centres are now functioning in Toronto, more will be opening next month and 325 young people are expected to participate this year.

4. The Ontario youth start program is operated by community colleges through off-campus sites and targeted to youth unable to deal with the traditional school setting. It combines instruction in basic work skills with on-the-job training and counselling. Several thousand young people are expected to participate this year.

5. The Ontario youth tourism program, with 2,500 young people to be trained and employed over the next two years, combines two weeks of

intensive training at a community college with on-the-job experience in a tourist operation.

6. The budget committed \$80 million to a new youth works subsidy program. We have combined all our existing subsidy programs while creating an emphasis through them on the hard-to-employ.

Mr. Nixon: These things worked better when the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) was running them.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They worked superbly under his guidance and they owe their success to—

Mr. Nixon: There were a lot more jobs for the bucks and not nearly so much political flim-flam.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We learned a great deal from his experience.

This past summer, some 53,000 young people were employed through wage subsidies to private sector employers. Summer Experience generated more than 9,000 jobs, and the wage subsidy program for post-secondary graduates created a further 4,000 opportunities. More recently, we have focused on young people whose employment problems are most severe. Through the youth works subsidy program, \$11.5 million has been channelled to youth employment counselling centres to create opportunities for more than 3,000 young people.

7. Our year-round venture capital incentive program is now ready for startup. This will build on the student venture capital program, which generated 850 small businesses and 2,000 jobs this summer. Further details on this program will be available next week.

8. The number of our youth employment counselling centres will be increased to 100. By the end of next month, eight new centres will be opened. Already the network has assisted some 20,000 young people.

9. We announced that a wage subsidy would be paid to employers who provided part-time jobs for students in financial need. We have decided to implement this concept by creating a part-time component of youth works—

Mr. Haggerty: The minister is saying that with a smile.

Mr. Nixon: This is the Bette Stephenson program.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: This is the one the member's leader thought was cancelled—with a subsidy of \$4 an hour.

Finally, regarding the Ontario career action program, we had 16,000 training positions this year, as pledged in the budget.

Our new long-term initiatives, together with our short-term initiatives, will create valuable and meaningful opportunities for more than 100,000 young people this year. During this transition year, we are shifting our focus to a long-term attack on the root of the problem.

One cannot expect immediate results when trying to solve long-term problems. Our new initiatives were not designed to make the unemployment numbers look good for a few weeks or months following the budget.

Mr. Haggerty: It is the same old story. The government has been saying that for the last 10 years.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, just like my friend's party has been trying to do better for 41 years. His party should try long-term solutions; they might work.

Mr. Haggerty: I have a solution to one.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: So do we. There were 900 people at the Progressive Conservative nomination in Erie riding two weeks ago. We are going to have to solve that problem.

Mr. Haggerty: Not 900; there were 600.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I was there with them.

Mr. Haggerty: That is right. There were 300 Liberals there.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If I were the member, I would be in Erie this morning.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. We are reviewing the estimates of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Our initiatives were designed to provide genuine opportunities for young people to do more than get out and paint fences for a few weeks, but rather to acquire the skills and experience they need to build the lives they want.

I also want to mention that our community economic transformation agreements are tailoring financial aid to the unique needs of each community. We have signed agreements with Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and the great city of Brantford, thanks to the excellent work and efforts of my colleague the member for Brantford.

Mr. Gillies: Diligent work; I do not know how we manage it at all.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is work.

I want to talk about federal-provincial relations for a moment, because they have such a profound impact on our economic circumstances.

We now have in place a new national government anxious to co-ordinate activities and to co-operate with the provinces. This is the time to set up a new framework with that government, to fashion what I have described as a new economic constitution for our country.

In fashioning that economic constitution, I believe we should try to reach agreement in five general areas; they are deficit management, economic development, industrial restructuring, reduction of waste and duplication and the very important question of the financing of social services.

I have pledged our agreement to be willing to discuss all aspects of changing relationships and changing responsibilities, to try to introduce some predictability and co-ordination. In this area I should like to mention that I hope we will take a major step towards better economic co-operation by signing an economic regional development agreement with the new federal government very shortly. We are in the final stages of negotiations, and this agreement will provide a co-operative framework within which both governments can address major economic regional development priority issues for the next 10 years.

Mr. Conway: Long-term pain for long-term gain.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Long-term sense.

Mr. Conway: The Treasurer will have to speak to it a lot sooner than I will.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My friend would not understand it, though, so let us get on to the simple stuff.

Mr. Conway: That is the attitude that costs delegates. The minister has to stop doing that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Listen to the Delphic oracle.

11:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Low risk today.

The other area I would like to mention this morning is that of pension reforms. In tandem with the federal government, we have moved to reinforce the basic social safety net for elderly people. Through increases under the federal guaranteed income supplement and Ontario guaranteed annual income system, we are raising the guaranteed annual income for the single elderly to 60 per cent of the income provided for couples.

We have proposed significant improvements in the Canada pension plan, including more generous survivor and disability benefits, provisions for early and late retirement, automatic

pension splitting between spouses and a shorter contributory period for maximum benefits. These recommendations, together with proposals to secure the financing of the CPP, are now under discussion with Ottawa and with the other provinces.

We have taken a lead in working to build a comprehensive and uniform private pension system across Canada. More than 90 per cent of the country's 15,000-plus pension plans are under provincial jurisdiction. We have now reached a broad consensus on major private pension issues, including vesting, membership criteria, survivor benefits and minimum employer contributions.

Mr. Conway: Sounds like you did not write this.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did.

Inflation protection remains the one outstanding issue. On December 3, provincial ministers will meet to consider the terms of a detailed consensus being prepared by officials. We will also reconsider the inflation protection question. We intend to bring forward new private pension legislation in 1985 that will reflect the provincial consensus and ensure national uniformity. Setting an example for the private sector, the province has extended pension coverage to more than 8,000 part-time Ontario government employees.

The overriding goal in pension reform is to reduce the number of elderly dependent on government transfer programs without introducing a major extension of government control over how Canadians prepare for retirement. We are working towards a balanced, flexible pension system which complements rather than frustrates people's actual desire to save for their later years.

After a decade of debate, I believe the national will now exists to redesign our pension system for the rest of this century and beyond. I also believe the goodwill exists to seize the opportunity we now have to fashion a renewed and stable working relationship between Ottawa and the provinces, spanning the gamut of national economic issues. We are committed to work together with our federal and provincial partners to build a new era of co-operative federalism in economic and pension matters.

Finally, as is always the case in presenting my estimates, and these must be the eighth or ninth set of estimates I have brought to the House, on none of those occasions have I failed to be educated and to learn something from my colleagues and critics on the other side of the House. I am always learning things from my

colleagues on this side of the House. I look forward to the next six hours and 32 minutes, during which I am sure there will be much advice and guidance, some of which, no doubt, we will follow and find quite useful in the months and perhaps days to come.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there someone from the opposition party who would like to respond first?

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: we have discussed this previously. The member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), my honourable friend and budget critic for the New Democratic Party, has to attend an important function in Thunder Bay in the next few hours. I am looking forward to hearing his comments, so I can deliver mine at the end of this debate.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me thank my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) for letting me do my leadoff first. I have a fairly tight schedule and I hope to be able to stay here until one o'clock to hear his remarks, but I do have engagements in Thunder Bay both this afternoon and on Monday. I appreciate the courtesy of the member.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish the Treasurer well in whatever future activities he undertakes in the next week, 10 days or so.

However, in listening to him this morning, both inside the House and on the speaker while I was munching my lunch outside, I have to say I was reminded a bit of the expression of Eliza Dolittle in that marvellous musical *My Fair Lady*, when she comes out almost screaming the words, "Words, words, words."

We have heard it all before. The Treasurer should do something. We who sit across the aisle from him are accustomed to hyperbole from him; we are accustomed to empty rhetoric; we are accustomed to half-hearted expressions of concern for ordinary Ontarians. We are also accustomed periodically to the borrowing of ideas and phrases from our program proposals.

When the Treasurer produced his so-called economic transformation last spring, we acted privately with some sense of hilarity and some sense of ironic *déjà vu*; we had seen it all before. Ironically, we had seen it all before in terms of some of our own proposals.

We are used to seeing our ideas taken over, gutted and then touted by Ontario Treasurers as new initiatives and new ideas. However, we had not counted on the audacity of the Treasurer. Not only did he shamelessly steal opposition party

programs, but he also shamelessly talked about long-term job creation.

There was not one thing in the budget, except words, that would lead substantially to long-term job creation, either for unemployed youth or for unemployed workers generally in this province. All the programs he so brazenly trotted out in May and so brazenly trotted out this morning are all short-term programs.

One example should do to establish the context of what I want to talk about this morning. It seems to me to be a very good point on which to do an evaluation of the Treasurer's progress and of his budget. As I said, it may be the last time we debate with this Treasurer.

For years, we in the New Democratic Party called on successive Treasurers to introduce fiscal measures that would bring about economic transformation. Sometimes, for example, we emphasized the importance of import replacement. At other times, we spoke of building-block industries.

Almost a year and a half ago, we decided that the "do nothing, leave it to the feds and the Americans" approach of this government, which remains the approach of this government, had to be confronted directly, especially since Ontarians were in danger of becoming convinced that the government could do nothing but pass the buck.

We put out a document called *Ontario Can Work*. In it, as in countless other documents we have prepared and released over the past 10 years, we made the very simple point that long-term initiatives and structural changes had to be the backdrop for the government's fiscal policymaking. We emphasized that initiatives for the short and medium terms would simply be cynical exercises in headline-grabbing without consideration of long-term solutions.

Through it all, what has been the response of the government? The government in its hard-nosed realism took great pride in the fact that what it was about was immediate responses to immediate problems. The government said: "We do not have the luxury of theorizing. We, the government, must act." They did, erecting dozens of short-term policy monuments to myopia.

We have what is called in the press a "new-style" Treasurer: a new man; a man given to slick, thoughtful, measured and, of course, staged reform. Above all, he is a man who is not afraid to gaze into the future. The trouble is that when he gazes into the future, it turns out to be

his rear-view mirror he sees and not the road at which he should be looking.

11:50 a.m.

What does he do? He gives us the same old programs, the same old things. Dozens of cute-as-can-be programs, short-term in nature, catchy in their acronyms, offering the same combination of ad hoc planning and cynical manipulation of the public and the media.

What makes this Treasurer so different? That is easy. He claims we in the opposition and in this party are the ones who want short-term and opportunistic responses, but he, the Treasurer, being the brave warrior that he is, will not be swayed, no way. It is the long-term initiatives for him.

When we look at them, what do we find? We find 20-week jobs; 32-week jobs; even, goodness knows, long-term—even some jobs that last a full six months. What else do we get? We get minimum-wage jobs and up-to-minimum-wage subsidy programs. Yes sir, that is structural reform all the way. That is the new wave in Conservative Treasurers. That is why with this particular Treasurer the future looks so much like the past.

What I want to discuss today is three things. I want to discuss security and insecurity in our economy. I want to deal with these themes in three areas: youth unemployment, the low-wage economy and the Treasurer's obsessive commitment to the symbol of Ontario's triple-A credit rating. In all three areas, the Treasurer, as the minister responsible for the fiscal policy of Ontario, has a good deal to explain if he can.

Let us start with youth unemployment. In spite of his manipulation of statistics, in spite of the percentages, the fact of the matter is that 156,000 young people were actively seeking work in September 1983. The fact of the matter is that 156,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 were still actively and desperately looking for work in September 1984.

There has been no improvement. The Treasurer announced his 10-point program last May and has not had one iota of effect on creating short-term or long-term jobs for those people actively seeking work.

What we have had over the summer is a staged program of announcements. He announces the programs in May; he begins to announce them singly over the summer; he reannounces them today. The result is 102,000 fewer young people are employed in Ontario today than were employed in May or in June. Ironically, it was in June when he made the commitment that there

would be 100,000 more young people working in the province by September 1. In fact, his do-nothing budget approach has had exactly the opposite effect.

The Treasurer's record is not a good one. He has not been Treasurer long enough for us to get a good estimate of whether he will be a good Treasurer. Perhaps that decision will be taken out of our hands, certainly out of his hands, but in fact it is a major weakness that this Treasurer has been in his position for only a few months and is already seeking greener pastures.

If we are going to tackle youth unemployment, we have to tackle the problem of unemployment. We cannot just tackle the problem of youth unemployment in isolation. We cannot just tackle the problem with short-term programs. I emphasize that all the Treasurer has given us is short-term programs while giving us the words and the rhetoric of long-term programs.

I would suggest the following three-point strategy if we really want to tackle the problem of unemployed youth in Ontario. I want to start at the other end of the scale. I want to suggest that the programs for voluntary early retirement and the shorter work week that we in this party have suggested could go a long way towards solving the problem of youth unemployment.

If, for example, only half the workers between the ages of 60 and 65 took up the kinds of programs we have offered for full pensions, bridging pensions and voluntary early retirement, we could create 100,000 jobs in this province. Those jobs would be freed up, permanent, real, lifetime jobs for young people entering the work force at the other end of the scale.

As well, if we aim to reduce the average work week in Ontario by just one hour we can create another 100,000 jobs in this province, and those would be fundamentally honest and lifetime jobs. They would not be make-work jobs; they would be jobs that are part of our economy today.

With those two steps alone, we could cut the unemployment rate in this province by 40 per cent, and a large proportion of that would be to cut the unemployment rate for our youth.

We have talked about import replacement in this province, and I want to talk about just three areas. If in a hard-nosed, realistic and aggressive way we went about building manufacturing industries in this province to supply all our hospitals, clinics, etc., with medical supplies; if in a hard-nosed way we went after a program of supplying mining machinery for the mining industry of this country; and if we used the IDEA

Corp. in creative and innovative ways for what it should have been used for—that is, investment capital in areas where we know there is a market, where we know there is potential to develop a strong domestic industry—and if we used it as a basis for a domestic and an export industry in the forestry-machinery manufacturing sector and in the food processing sector, we could create another 20,000 to 35,000 jobs.

Finally, if in the short term we tackled the monumental problem of housing in this province and provided the necessary social housing for seniors in the nonprofit and co-operative sectors and the renovation and repair of existing housing stock, we could create 45,000 real, albeit short-term, jobs in construction.

If we took those four steps to tackle the structural problems of the economy and the chronic problems we have with unemployment, we could halve the unemployment rate in this province. I suggested to the Treasurer in my response to the budget that the six and five program he should be aiming for is one that reduces unemployment in the province to five per cent as an immediate goal. He has not even begun to address that problem or come to terms with it.

With regard to employment, and specifically youth unemployment, the kind of program that this party would certainly look at as a government would be one that dovetails short-term job creation with long-term job creation.

12 noon

Let me give members two examples. We have suggested that we could develop jobs very badly needed in the reforestation and silviculture area of our resources. We know there is a desperate problem in reforestation in this province. It is vitally important and crucial that we maintain our forests to protect the jobs that are already there in our economy.

One of the ways we can protect those jobs over the next 30 to 60 years is to ensure that there is a mature forest to harvest. We will not do that unless we get into the proper silvicultural methods. Even after the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) has planted most of his trees upside down, instead of green side up, we need to have a proper tending of the forest.

We are suggesting that programs be developed so that our young people can get not only on-the-job training but also in-the-classroom training in community colleges or in university forestry faculties. They can do these short-term jobs. Having had the experience, they would then have the encouragement and the ambition to seek them as long-term jobs. We need more

long-term forest technicians and unit foresters on the ground throughout the north. It is that kind of program, where we give a young person immediate, short-term experience on the job combined with training that leads to an opening for a similar job in that industry, which is absolutely crucial.

The same could be said of the programs we have put forward in energy conservation. People could be trained in looking at homes and businesses to see where steps could be taken to improve the insulation or energy conservation in those homes. They could be trained in the construction arts and the skills necessary for retrofitting and given in-the-classroom training at the same time. It is not fly-by-night work; it is not temporary work; it is work that is supervised and well done, so the consumer benefits and the young person engaged in the job gets training and experience.

We believe that in this area alone many thousands of jobs could be created, not merely in the short term but also in the long term, because there is so much housing stock and there is so much of our small business community with business stock that could benefit enormously by those steps.

I want to turn now from the problem of youth unemployment, which we consider to be one of the most crucial problems facing our society today, to an increasing problem in the last part of the 20th century in our society with regard to our economy. Scarcely a day goes by when we do not hear someone on the government side or someone in the corporate sector talking about the need to usher in a new era of labour-management relations. They talk about the need to create a new partnership among labour, business and government. The Treasurer is fond of the concept. He made that point at the recent economic conference.

In spite of the overwhelming attendance this morning and the way the press, the members and the public are riveted on this important debate, I want to get behind the pat phrases of the new partnership and talk about what the real agenda is when those phrases are mouthed by government spokesmen and by management.

First, let me emphasize one point. I support a new era in labour-management relations. In Ontario we genuinely and desperately need a new partnership. What we do not need is 19th-century management practices masquerading as the 21st new era in order to be competitive with the Third World. What we do not need is a return to an era when corporations and governments rely on

coercion, anti-labour laws, fear and insecurity to secure the subordination of workers.

That is precisely what we are getting in this province. When management and this government talk about a new partnership, it usually ends up meaning more for management and less for workers. When governments talk about a new labour-management consensus, it usually means takeaways from labour and giveaways to the corporations.

What is the new partnership on pensions, for example? In Ontario one out of every two workers does not have a company pension. Those who do can expect a retirement income that will be less than half their pre-retirement earnings. Only half of the workers in this province have private company pensions and, of those who do, their income will be half or less of their pre-retirement earnings. That is an average; of course there will be some above that, some who will get better pensions than that.

Mr. Chairman, because you follow these events so closely and with such alertness, I am sure you are aware of the ripoff of workers' pensions at CCM Inc. in Toronto, for example. CCM went bankrupt. However, it was later found that CCM had not been making its contributions to the company pension plan. Workers who were counting on their pensions were left with benefits 60 per cent less than they expected.

There was a step in pension reform and pension protection that this government knew about. It knew about that loophole in the law for more than 10 years. This Treasurer had been the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. There is no pension protection in situations like that even today. Very simply, that is robbery. In that case, we have allowed a corporate steal or corporate thievery of workers' pensions to take place and there is no retribution in law. There is absolutely no justification for it morally or financially.

Then there is the other half of that equation, management pensions. When Charles Bronfman of Seagram retires, he will get \$720,000 a year in pension.

Mr. Nixon: He will not have to buy booze either.

Mr. Foulds: That is right.

When the head of Northern Telecom retires, he will get \$774,000 a year in pension. That is more than \$2,000 every day. That is a pretty tidy sum. It is a very nice expense account. He will be able to spend his sunset years in some comfort and luxury.

Mr. Rotenberg: Think of all the income tax.

Mr. Foulds: How can we deal seriously with the clamouring I hear from the voices of angels on my left?

Mr. Rotenberg: I am not on your left.

Mr. Foulds: He is on my left only geographically. Ideologically, he is so far to my right that even on a clear day I would not be able to see him.

Mr. Rotenberg: That is because you are so far left.

Mr. Foulds: I take that as an absolute compliment in this society. That is the only tribute I have ever received from the member for Armourdale; I believe it is.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Robinson): Wilson Heights.

Mr. Foulds: I am sorry, it was the member for Wilson Heights. How could I forget which seat the Tories were able to obtain from the Liberals for the member for Wilson Heights?

Mr. Rotenberg: Watch how you say that. One of your former members—

Mr. Foulds: I watched very carefully how he did it.

How can we deal seriously with the clamouring about a new era in labour-management relations when there are so clearly two Ontarios and two Canadas, one in which workers live and another quite different world in which management lives?

12:10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I know you will be aware of this because you are such an astute student of these things. One only has to go to any company town in northern Ontario to see the difference between the style management lives in and the style the workers live in. It is not as great as the disparity one often sees in Third World countries, but there is a clearly defined management row of housing and the rest of the townsite.

What is this new partnership on job security? We all know the corporate buzzwords so frequently used and relied on by the Treasurer and his colleagues—"consolidation," "rationalization," "international competitiveness." The thing that worries me is whenever we hear them, layoffs are not far behind. In the cities and across Ontario, these buzzwords have left thousands of workers on the street. In the last month in Ontario alone, more than 3,000 workers have been dumped from the payrolls of corporations.

It is interesting that today the Treasurer made the statement that 42,000 jobs had been created

in Ontario since June. First, that is a far cry from the 100,000 jobs for youth unemployment alone he promised on June 22; nor does it deal with the simple, fatal statistic that a number of jobs, plant shutdowns and layoffs have occurred in the meantime.

What is the new partnership on wages? In a word, on the one side the new partnership means concessions from the workers. On the other side, it means executive bonuses. In recent years workers have been asked to give back benefits and take pay cuts. At the same time, within the last year executive compensation has hit the stratosphere. For example, at General Motors Roger Smith was paid \$1.5 million for his efforts last year and Lee Iaccoca at Chrysler pulled in the tidy sum of \$2.6 million.

As the companies tell us, the pay levels reflect the economy's robust recovery from recession and rewards for executives for a job well done. That is a comfort to the tens of thousands of laid-off workers in our economy. If we accept management terms for a new partnership and if we accept the Treasurer's terms for a new partnership in Ontario today, we are heading down the road to a low-wage economy.

The signs are very clear and disturbing. More and more people are without and will be without jobs. In Canada and the United States every recession since the late 1960s has increased the level of unemployment. In other words, every recovery has fallen behind the last in terms of job recovery. Unemployment does not follow the ebb and flow of the business cycle. Instead, unemployment is steadily notching its way higher and higher.

Second, Canadian business is waging a multipronged assault on the incomes and living standards of ordinary Canadians. I know that is a strong statement, but in the past three years, concessions, wage freezes and cuts, legislated wage controls, walkouts, two-tier agreements and contracting-out have all served to reduce real wages.

In the second quarter of this year, the annual average wage gain had dropped to 3.2 per cent below the rate of inflation and was the lowest increase since the federal Department of Labour started keeping records in 1967. According to Statistics Canada, the workers' share of the national income is now the smallest it has been in a decade.

Let me just turn south for a moment. A recent study out of the United States has indicated that between 1978 and 1983 the American middle class shrank by 13 per cent. In a short space of

five years that represents a dramatic and enormous shift to a low-wage economy. Part of the explanation of that shift, both in the United States and Canada, lies in the changing nature of jobs. The United States Census Bureau has indicated that while the economy is creating a number of high-income jobs in high technology, for example, the bulk of available jobs is in the lower-paid service sector, such as custodians in buildings, guards and restaurant workers. It is the McDonald's syndrome.

In Canada a federal government report, entitled *The Rocky Road to 1990*, estimated that up to half of the existing manufacturing jobs in Canada may be lost by the turn of the decade. These jobs are being replaced with service sector jobs and service sector jobs are paying much less than manufacturing jobs. Manufacturing jobs average about \$450 a week; service sector jobs average about \$268 a week.

Furthermore, a lot of what were previously full-time jobs, in the service sector in particular, are being replaced by part-time jobs. When we add to those trends the impact of technology, wage concessions and the shift of jobs overseas, it all adds up to a very dangerous trend towards a low-wage economy. That is what is behind pat phrases about the new partnership we hear so much about and the new era of labour-management relations governments want to see.

In the inaugural budget of the Davis government way back in 1971, Ontario framed its fiscal policy in the following way: "The new government of Ontario has promised the people of this province that it will combat the current intolerable levels of unemployment with every means at its command." Do members know what the intolerable level of unemployment was that the Davis government spoke about in 1971? It was 4.3 per cent, compared to today's rate of 8.7 per cent.

In the intervening years Ontario's fiscal policy has changed dramatically. I remember, Mr. Chairman, as you will not, since you were not in the House at the time, that in 1972 the province continued to emphasize that job creation and unemployment were the number one priority and the major concern. Although unemployment is now much higher, Ontario no longer makes commitments to reduce unemployment. The Treasurer's own budget makes that case.

When all is said and done, the Treasurer admits his budget will allow unemployment to remain at over nine per cent. The emphasis of government policy has shifted from a full employment aim for the economy to fiscal

restraint, from combatting what in 1971 was called the "intolerable level of unemployment" and in 1972 was called the "unconscionable level of unemployment" to maintaining the province's triple-A credit rating. To maintain the triple-A credit rating has become the symbolic obsession of the Treasurer.

The story in the Toronto Star, I think it was yesterday, which outlined the sacrifices the people of Ontario have to make in order to preserve that triple-A rating, is a clear testament to the failure of this government and its policies. I have already made the point that we are heading towards a low-wage economy. Exacerbating this trend is the attack on the living standards of ordinary Canadians that we are now seeing.

In the past few weeks I have been reading with growing alarm what corporate executives and leading business organizations are advising this government's federal colleagues. The Royal Bank, the Business Council on National Issues, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association all have paraded their way to Ottawa to tell the federal colleagues of this party to cut social spending and to end universality in social programs. They also have talked about eliminating minimum wages, child labour laws and health and safety laws. Can members believe that in 1984?

In Ontario the Premier and Treasurer go to Standard and Poor's in New York to hear the same thing. Standard and Poor's tells the province its triple-A credit rating is a bit tipsy and the Treasurer and the Premier come back and put the squeeze on Ontario families. What a way to run a province. Standard and Poor's says "triple-A" and the Ontario government makes it clear that hospitals, universities, schools and municipalities will feel the pinch and its new social programs will not be developed.

12:20 p.m.

We are told a three per cent raise is the most any ministry can expect and we are told the Premier himself, who has appeared in this House only once since he announced his retirement, tells his cabinet not to initiate any new programs for the people of Ontario. The reports say he can take the heat because he will not have to run for public office again. That is a shameful way to run a province and a shameful way for the Premier to go out of office.

Indeed, the package of goods and services we call the social wage is being undermined. In other words, while the private sector takes us down the road to a low-wage economy, the province at the same time begins to lower the social wage. Such

a course of action just does not make sense. What is worse, it is really unnecessary.

The Treasurer protests that there is no relationship between Ontario's social programs and the galloping debt of Ontario Hydro and that there is no relationship between Hydro's borrowing and the venerable triple-A credit rating. However, past Treasurers, and indeed a future rival to the minister, disagree. In 1976, Darcy McKeough, the then Ontario Treasurer, stated in his budget:

"Ontario Hydro's financial requirements in support of its capital spending program have an important impact on the government's finances. Borrowing by Hydro in the world's capital markets directly affects the province's own borrowing capacity and financial standing in the investment community. The province borrows on behalf of Hydro in the US capital market and guarantees the corporation's debenture issues in Canada and other international markets. Provincial borrowing restraint must therefore be matched by restraint on the part of Ontario Hydro."

What we have, I admit, is restraint on behalf of the Treasurer on the social programs that he can cut and affect directly, but we have no restraint on the part of Ontario Hydro. We see it pushing ahead with capital development that is senseless and unnecessary in this province.

Treasurer Darcy McKeough, in the Ontario budget in 1976, said: "If we expand the electrical system in a manner which takes risks with our financial standing, we shall be contributing to inflation and we shall also be prejudicing our medium-term capacity to finance the provision of public services at the provincial and local levels."

Indeed, that is precisely what is happening today because of Hydro's overexpansion. Because of its imperialistic attitude towards its nuclear development, we are threatening and hampering our capacity to finance the provision of public services and social services at the provincial and local levels.

Even the current Treasurer, in his prebudget statement in the autumn of 1983, said, "In examining provincial borrowing requirements, it is necessary to take into account borrowing by Ontario Hydro." This Treasurer himself said that. "This is an important factor in the determination of capital availability, in the assessment of our credit rating and in the long-term interest costs borne in total by our citizens."

How in the world could he have stood here in this House yesterday and denied that this has a direct effect on our ability to provide social and

educational services? The fact is that because Ontario Hydro is out of control, Ontario families are paying for it in hydro rates, in taxes and in social service cutbacks. I would suggest that Ontario's triple-A credit rating could be kept intact and that Ontario families and social wages could be maintained if the Treasurer had the courage, either as Treasurer or as Premier in the future, to take Ontario Hydro under control.

I think it is important to look for alternatives, and I want to outline a few of them very briefly before I sit down. I do not want to compete with our international competitors by bringing Third World conditions to this province and insisting that Third World working conditions are the wave of the future or by having 19th-century working conditions masquerade as the working conditions we have to endure in the last part of the 20th century and the first part of the 21st century.

I do not want to restore the corporate balance sheet by accepting low wages, fewer workers' rights and high unemployment. I do not want to deal with government deficits by scrapping universal social programs and by impoverishing more people while ignoring the issue of tax privilege among the wealthy and in the corporate sector.

Therefore, what are some alternatives? One alternative is to build a new era on the basis of full employment, social solidarity and new industrial democracy. That means job creation must be the first priority of governments. Job creation must be the sole preoccupation, or the major preoccupation if not the sole preoccupation, of this government and of this Treasury. It cannot be left to the feds any more. It cannot be left to the reactivation of the American economy, hoping that change will take us along like a little boy being taken by the hand by his parent.

It means government must improve social services, rather than cutting them back; it must expand universality, not undermine it. It means the economy must serve the needs of the people and not the other way around. It means the labour principle has to have priority over the principle of capital. It means corporate priorities cannot take precedence over social needs.

We in this party have laid out an alternative economic agenda. I have tried to sketch that this morning. I have tried to sketch that in response to the budget. I have tried to sketch that on the hustings of this province on behalf of this party.

Our alternative economic agenda differs substantially from that of the Treasurer's. It is based on protecting our existing jobs. It is based on

creating new jobs by rebuilding our manufacturing base. It means replacing imports instead of workers. It means providing jobs in socially useful public sector areas. It means introducing a fair taxation system. It means extending workers' rights and introducing new tough but fair rules for multinationals.

We have a clear choice. We can continue to drift to a low-wage economy and a return to 19th-century industrial relations, or we can talk and work with our neighbours, our co-workers and the people of this province from every region, from Kenora to Kingston, from Windsor to Ottawa, from Kapuskasing to Niagara Falls. We can build the type of society in this province that most of us want for ourselves and for our children.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, we are considering a \$4-billion budget in the ministry over the next few hours. It is up by \$419 million because of additional interest costs, because the total interest provided for in this budget to service the provincial debt is \$2,953,000,000.

It is interesting to look at those figures and compare them with previous budgets. My friend the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds), who just took his seat, was referring to budgetary statements made by Darcy McKeough in 1976. I intend to refer to a budget of Mr. McKeough's in 1975, which was another watershed year.

In the Treasurer's remarks earlier this morning he indicated the restraint program of this government was initiated in 1975, although I just sent a copy of the 1975 budget back to the library in which a substantial segment of Mr. McKeough's remarks at that time extolled the restraint the government of Ontario had undertaken during his years of Treasury management.

12:30 p.m.

It is interesting to note that one of the reasons references to restraint beginning in 1975 are valid is that that particular budget was such an outrageous vote-buying vehicle. Since you have been interested in politics for a long time, Mr. Chairman, you may recall that particular budget, just before the 1975 election, reduced the sales tax across the board by two per cent, removing it entirely from manufacturing material and certain other categories. It also provided substantial increases in provincial guaranteed annual income system payments, it gave free drugs to all pensioners, it cut provincial income tax substantially and, as a cherry on top, it gave \$1,500 cash to every first-time home owner in Ontario.

It is interesting to note also that what the then Treasurer described as a program of restraint

culminated in a deficit of \$1.7 billion in Ontario on a budget of \$8 billion.

I thought I would put these figures before you, Mr. Chairman, and the Treasurer in case, as a footnote in any of his election stuff, the Treasurer might want to remind some of the careful burghers in southwestern Ontario that restraint in 1975 involved this attractive package of pre-election giveaways, all of which were earmarked to last only to the end, not of the fiscal year, but of the calendar year.

It was nicely timed. My friend the whip of our party was standing valiantly with me in those days as he is this morning, and as we went through the province we were subject to the kind of strain in which people would say: "It is pretty hard to vote against Santa Claus."

Actually, it was somewhat irritating to me to hear the Treasurer in his opening remarks—some of which I had heard before and I warn him he is going to hear some of my remarks more than once on this subject since he and I presumably will be appearing on these occasions for a little while—because while he is extremely plausible when he talks in glowing terms about the prospects of the economy of Ontario during the next few months, I should tell him, however, that I believe he is selective in putting before us certain factual data and quotes from other sources which indicate that all is well in this province. He heard me mention at the time of the interim supply discussion a few days ago that it is quite possible to collect other, let us say, significant quotes that would indicate the future does not look that good.

He mentions the Conference Board of Canada. I understand we fund them to the extent of \$100,000 a year, buying their services. There is no indication that he is cutting that off, as far as I know, but—

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, you do. You mean you didn't know that you did?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I wondered how much.

Mr. Nixon: I see. It is interesting. He probably gives them the money so they can stay in business and he can then criticize them. In speech after speech, that is his total utilization of the stand taken by the Conference Board and the figures they have worked out. The taxpayers through the Treasurer's largess are sending them \$100,000 every year, and yet the Treasurer obviously has no confidence in their predictions. He is always indicating they are far too pessimistic.

I do not want to spend a lot of time on that, however. I simply want to say, to balance in part what the Treasurer used in his opening remarks, that Brantford, which is one of our major urban centres, three weeks ago experienced the layoff of 2,500 Massey-Ferguson workers for an indefinite period, at least until February. In Kitchener, a significant growth centre in Ontario, the Burns Meat Ltd. meatpacking division has been closed, not laid off, with the loss of approximately 700 jobs. Black and Decker in Barrie has relocated; maybe it is a scam to evade its union responsibilities or its collective agreement responsibilities, but it has closed down and those people in that area are simply out in the cold.

As a farmer, right now I hope the combines are working in our corn field and we hope we are going to get a good yield. We have worked hard to have a reasonable crop, although the Treasurer will be interested to know that we do have some root worm.

Mr. Foulds: He does not even know what that is.

Mr. Nixon: He has it too.

The grain that is coming out of the field, I can sell immediately for \$3.22 a bushel minus trucking, combining, drawing charges and so on; so it will be around \$2.90 a bushel by the time we get all the stuff knocked off it. Last year, when things were tough and the minister's budget was designed to put us on the road to economic improvement, the price out of the field was more like \$3.80, and by judicious storage, care and husbandry, I was able to sell a good part of the crop for about \$4.15.

For the minister to say to the farmers that things look good and are improving or to the employees in Brantford—my friend the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) is here reading the Toronto Sun again—

Mr. Foulds: Which page?

Mr. Nixon: He likes to read that article about the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell).

It is very difficult for those people to take seriously the prognostications of the Treasurer this morning or last week when we were discussing interim supply. It is certainly not my purpose to be a gloom-and-doom Treasury critic. I hope that the Treasurer is right and that he is still shooting low on the mark, as he indicated earlier this year. Frankly, I have my doubts that is going to be so. When this House reconvenes for the winter or spring session, we may find ourselves facing problems even more severe than those we

foresee. It will be interesting to see what the Treasurer is doing when we return to this House.

There have been cases in the past when the Premier of Ontario was his own Treasurer. That is a very interesting combination of duties. One of my great heroes, the Honourable Mitchell F. Hepburn, was always Treasurer at the same time as being Premier. It is interesting to read his budgetary statements, which probably had less political infusion than those of the present Treasurer. They were very businesslike, and even in hard times he was able to report the kind of management of our provincial affairs that gave rise to his repeated re-election—one time.

I do not know whether we should involve ourselves in the leadership campaign during these estimates, but one of the points raised by my friend the member for Port Arthur, who is the budgetary critic for the New Democratic Party, is one I want to raise as well. I will do it now rather than later, because it is fresh in our minds.

The NDP has talked about the pressure on our credit rating brought about by the large expenditures for Ontario Hydro and the views of past Treasurers in this regard. I want to mention two publications that I found very interesting in this connection. One is *Power at What Cost?* by Lawrence Solomon, who I think is working on behalf of Ontario Energy Probe, which is a well-known organization. The other one is *Electric Empire: The Inside Story of Ontario Hydro*, by an author whose name I will mention when I come to it in my notes; it is also an excellent book.

I noticed a couple of quotations in the Solomon publication, of which the Treasurer is no doubt aware. This one is from W. Darcy McKeough, Treasurer of Ontario, on June 26, 1972. "I can't resign myself, as Treasurer of the province, nor could my advisers, to say that the solution to our problems is for Ontario to say, 'We will not borrow,' and just leave the market free for Ontario Hydro."

Is that not interesting? This was in 1972. Now, in 1984 and in the years immediately previous, we have done precisely that. The Treasurer and his immediate predecessor have tried to make something valuable out of the fact that the province has stayed out of the public borrowing market. They said: "Is this not fine? We can finance our programs without going into the market to increase the debt to improve our provincial programs." However, at the same time, they have said, "We will leave this market free and available to Ontario Hydro."

The next step in that was the beginning of the transference of our access to Canada pension plan funds, which have always been used in this province for the building of schools, hospitals and social capital of that type. We have now begun to transfer those dollars to Ontario Hydro as well. The criticisms that have been levelled at the supervision of our budget and our general economic approach in that regard are extremely important.

12:40 p.m.

When one thinks that McKeough said in 1972, more than a decade ago, "I and my advisers cannot consider vacating the loan field entirely to Hydro," it is a warning that has come to pass in a very damaging and deleterious way. Ontario Hydro now owes \$20 billion. The weight of the interest on this debt and its effect on our credit rating in the markets are matters of serious concern.

The Treasurer has said—and his comments are picked up by the press; I heard them on the CBC this morning—our triple-A rating is not in danger. I am glad to hear that. I do not believe it should be in danger.

I also believe the Treasurer is quite justified in his explanation of his trip with the Premier to New York. We borrow a lot of money down there and our principal corporate officers, if we can think of them in that regard, and we must when we talk about borrowing money, have every right and responsibility to go down to the lenders, meet them personally and answer questions in respect to what must be a matter of grave concern in the money markets of New York when they see what is happening to Ontario Hydro.

The argument is always put to us, "If you think we are bad, you should see what is happening in Oregon or Utah or Louisiana," or somewhere, where things are worse. The various power companies, most of them private corporations, have really got into a mess that is absolutely unbelievable. Huge establishments for the production and delivery of electricity from atomic sources have simply had to be stopped because there did not seem to be enough money in any kind of a market, any extension of a market, to complete them. Obviously we are not in so bad a situation.

In my view, however, one of the main problems that must be faced by Treasurer Grossman or Premier Grossman—that does not sound too bad—is what to do with Ontario Hydro.

The second thing I am going to be talking about is what to do with Ontario's post-

secondary education system, but I will let that go until one of the major players in that game leaves.

I want to speak briefly about Hydro. Treasurer Grossman and/or Premier Grossman has within his grasp one of the most effective measures to deal with Ontario Hydro in the person of Alan Schwartz, who is probably a QC by now. I heard that Alan Schwartz was now employed by one of the Treasurer's governmental emanations. Not true; the Treasurer is shaking his head. His association with Alan Schwartz is at another level, a political level. I understand—and I hope this is true—Mr. Schwartz has a prominent role to play in the organization of the leadership campaign.

I am very high on Mr. Schwartz. The only thing that blighted our relationship, which was always a very professional one, left over from select committee on Hydro days, is the fact that I felt the bills rendered by Mr. Schwartz and his colleagues were absolutely unconscionable highway robbery, and I said so at the time. I am not at all sure we could have hired a better person, but when he came to our select committee he did not know any more about Ontario Hydro than I did. When we left, we were both very conversant, but he was \$400,000 richer.

Just so he will not enter an action in this connection, the \$400,000 was a gross sum—in more ways than one—and there may possibly have been certain small items of cost that had to be deducted from that. I was absolutely appalled, however, when I actually saw what this sort of professional advice entailed. I suppose if our relationship is permanently blighted, it is the same blight I have in my relationships with almost everybody who makes more than I do. That is a psychological problem I need help with.

Mr. Foulds: Think of what Hydro pays.

Mr. Nixon: I am a good friend of Pierre Genest's too. Maybe we should look into that matter. Alan Schwartz, in my view, has the basic intelligence to have an arm's-length review without getting shortness of breath in the presence of the sacred cow, Hydro. If the Treasurer continues in this job, which I believe he will, one of his main responsibilities should be to do what Treasurers in the past have eventually been forced to do and whip Hydro into shape.

I have said already that Premiers in the past have been their own Treasurers. It must be a great temptation. The only thing wrong with it is that these throngs of supporters in the back row, diligently sitting in their places even though everybody else is gone, are going to expect some sort of recognition. I understand the Correctional

Services portfolio will be available, however, since that minister has jumped the wrong way, and perhaps the member for Brantford—I will let that go.

By saying the Treasurer will continue to be Treasurer, I am not making a judgement on the possibility or probability of his success in this January 27 clambake. I wish him well. I have a very high regard for him and the way he works in the Legislature. I felt the same way about his sainted father in spite of the fact that we kick him all the time. His father used to be present in the Legislature and taking part in the debates in a way that has not happened around here for a long time.

With the advent of John Robarts, who after the first year of his prime ministership, as he liked to call it, soon learned he did not have to be here, his cabinet ministers all learned the same thing. This was the beginning of the irrelevancy of this place. Allan Grossman, however, did not take that lead; he was here and did respond with probably some of the best interjections that have ever been given here. He also handled his estimates pretty well, although he could have been given a lot more responsibility than he was given.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, may I rise on a point of something or other to indicate that in the light of the various opportunities the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has taken to comment on my father's post-elective activities, my father will be most encouraged to read these kind remarks. My father has only one post-political-retirement shortcoming; he reads Hansard diligently every day. On his behalf, I should like to thank the member for those kind remarks.

Mr. Nixon: I would suggest Valium might do the same thing for him. If the Treasurer is listening and his father is reading, I want to say that I do not recall ever singling out an individual who is what we choose to call a double-dipper, because once one starts singling them out, they are found on all sides of the political spectrum. That does not make it right, but it is a fact.

I want to say something more about Hydro. My principal recommendation is that at some time or other the Treasurer should sit down with Alan Schwartz and maybe a couple of other people who were associated with that select committee and spend some time and say, "Suppose we ruled the universe," which they may very well do, "what could we do to set this mess straight?" Somebody is going to have to do that.

Mr. Foulds: Fisher was pretty good, too.

Mr. Nixon: Fisher was excellent, although his politics are suspect. I do not know whether I would let him into the room.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I see him often.

Mr. Nixon: Do you? He is a good fellow.

On Ontario Hydro, I would mention the awarding of the head office contract without tender in 1971. I would also mention the commitment of Ontario Hydro to a policy that resulted in the kind of overbuilding that is completely unconscionable and cannot be justified on the basis of "How are we to know?" and "We had to build so that the lights would not go out."

Hydro has overbuilt by 50 per cent. Even being generous and saying 25 per cent of that overbuild is acceptable, it still leaves a huge amount of committed public dollars borrowed at high interest rates under the supervision of Salomon Brothers and others. This borrowing has been an albatross around the neck of the economy of Ontario.

12:50 p.m.

Ontario Hydro has undertaken contracts for coal involving buying the whole production of a coal field—12 million tons per year. The best research indicates that on the average we are consuming less than nine million tons per year, even though with our Pickering breakdowns and so on the coal utilization is up.

We have a huge surfeit of coal that is bought and paid for. In oil, we have bought contracts that involve accepting deliveries of 22,000 barrels a day until 1992, and we are accepting no oil at all. After 1977, we began paying Petrosar a \$50-million-a-year penalty for our shortfalls on those contracts.

I do not want to spend a lot of time on this. I am talking about the head office, the overbuilding, the coal, the oil and the uranium. Under our agreement with Mr. Roman of Denison Mines and his colleagues of Rio Algom, we have enough uranium to fuel Darlington and 12 additional plants the size of the Pickering reactor for 30 years and have 23,000 tons left over. By the end of the century, the value of the 23,000 tons left over will be \$2.7 billion. We have a lot of coal, a lot of oil and a lot of uranium we do not need.

Ontario Hydro is fond of saying, "Yes, we owe \$20 billion, but our assets are \$23 billion or \$24 billion." By the time they count all the assets, that may be true, but what is the real value of an oil-fired installation at Wesleyville? What

is the value of a coal-fired installation that simply cannot be fired up, that has no control of its sulphur dioxide emissions in an urban centre?

They have mothballed \$2.5 billion—that is the capital cost—in installations over the last decade and still have a 50 per cent surplus in production. If anybody at Hydro reads that, I am prepared to grant, reluctantly, the need for a 25 per cent cushion, although I think it is too much in a properly organized electrical system.

The next thing is transmission. We are two decades late in building the transmission lines to take the power out of the great world-class Bruce atomic installation. We are behind square one in building the transmission lines that take the power out of Bruce B. We have this huge commitment to build that thing.

It is a modern miracle, I say that most sincerely, and we are not going to be able to get the power out because of this transmission difficulty. A dollar figure could be assigned to that, but I do not have a dollar figure. If we have to replace the electricity that should be coming from that source with coal-fired, particularly from SO₂ emitting sources, the dollar figure is almost impossible to establish.

We have talked about heavy water before. The select committee reviewed that. I was on the select committee and Alan Schwartz was our counsel. We built four units. It was supposed to cost \$1 billion, back in the days when that was real money. It went \$720 million over, even in those days. In 1977, an employee of Lummus Canada, which supervised the construction, finally went public, quit his job and said, "I am immersed in a fiasco in which we have entirely lost control of this multimillion-dollar development for Ontario Hydro." It was McKeough who, in 1976, with a stroke of the pen, actually cancelled unit C of the heavy water installation.

The idea that the Treasurer does not have the power to do this is absurd. The Treasurer does not have in the statute any day-to-day responsibility for the control of Hydro. He is simply responsible for every dollar it borrows. Any time he raises his eyebrow or crooks his finger having to do with borrowed money, then Hydro had better respond, and I assure the Treasurer it will.

It is estimated now, by one of these recent publications, that doing business with Babcock and Wilcox, besides the billions of dollars we have paid them for their work, has cost us \$850 million in losses attributed to their bad workmanship. The contracts we worked out with Babcock and Wilcox were what we call soft contracts. There was no fault attributed to Babcock and

Wilcox under the contract. No tenders were let, except on one occasion in 1965. In spite of the fact that other Canadian corporations—admittedly, one of them in Quebec, which obviously gave the Premier of the day here some difficulty—could have done this work, there were no tenders except one time in 1965.

There were no performance guarantees. There was full inflation protection for Babcock and Wilcox. There was no United States liability for this, their totally owned subsidiary, and they received payment before delivery for everything they did for us. Yet they built scores of boilers. Defying the direction of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and Ontario Hydro in the heat annealing process, they were cemented into place at Pickering and had to be removed and reconstructed.

Members may recall that Babcock and Wilcox said at the time, "If you make us pay for this, we will have to go out of business." I remember the then chairman of Hydro coming to our committee and saying, "We cannot force these 1,600 people out of work." The ratepayers of Hydro took it on at an additional expense of \$850 million.

During that whole time the parent company in the United States was sitting back worrying about this because the reputation of Babcock and Wilcox is a good one, particularly that of its English firm, which is no longer associated with it; that is, it is fully separated.

There have been only three years in the past 50 or 60 when Babcock and Wilcox Canada has not returned a good profit. In my view, there was no way it was going to show up, and we were simply soft in our dealings with it.

Another point I want to mention in this connection is decommissioning, something that, if the Treasurer's political career goes on for 20 years, will be much more of a worry to him than acid rain or youth unemployment. The decommissioning of our atomic facilities is going to cause us such a strain around here that we cannot imagine it.

Do members know that we expect by the end of the century to have 30,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste that has to be got rid of? We had a royal commission on Ontario's power prospects. The royal commissioner was Dr. Porter from the University of Toronto, and at one stage he said Ontario should not undertake the commissioning of any more reactors until the disposition of radioactive wastes had been settled.

The idea is that we are going to find places with hard granite rock—plutons, they are called—dig holes down half a mile or so, put the stuff down there, fully ventilate it and undertake some kind of sacerdotal protection that over the centuries and millennia ahead will make it a religious commitment that those storage areas be protected.

I will predict now that any government, headed even by the Treasurer, with all his well-known persuasive capabilities, will never be able to negotiate the long-term storage of this high-level radioactive waste anywhere in this jurisdiction.

I was talking yesterday to my colleague our Environment critic, and it is his view that the final solution will be to take it down to Cape Canaveral, put it in a big tin can and shoot it to Pluto. That sounds wild, but it is about the only thing that is ever going to work.

The costs of decommissioning are unbelievable. If one looks at the facts and figures associated with cleaning up that reactor at Three Mile Island—which, by the way, is still sealed; I think they finally lowered a television camera down through a hole in the roof to see what is going on down there—the costs are simply going to be astronomical.

While I am personally confident that such an accident will not happen here—not that it cannot, that it will not—when the time comes after 40 years of utilization—Pickering has been going since when, 1967 or 1969? I am not sure of the year—it will come around to us. Forty years is not long. I used to think so when I was 35, but now that I am 56, 40 years is the blink of an eye.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I agree. Forty-one years is the blink of an eye.

Mr. Nixon: It is a long time. But you notice you cannot trust anybody under 40? That is another matter.

The Deputy Chairman: Perhaps this would be a good time—

Mr. Nixon: Oh, it is one o'clock. I have not quite completed my comments, but I will sit down at the behest of the Chairman.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, having discovered this morning that 41 years is hardly any time at all, I move the committee rise and report.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Grossman, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 1 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, October 29, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, October 29, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

DEATH OF DR. JAMES BAND

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, before entering into the formal statements, for a few moments this afternoon I would like to pay a farewell and final tribute to one of the outstanding servants of this Legislature. Probably in terms of personal impact upon the less fortunate in the community, he was our outstanding servant.

I refer to Dr. James Band, who was laid to rest last Friday. In his 50 years of service to this Legislature, this government and this province, he probably touched more lives, and touched them for the better, than anyone in our history. During those 50 years of service, he brought hope out of the hopelessness of the Depression when he began his career with the government of Ontario as a relief inspector in the very worst days of that Depression.

He served in the very hardest-hit communities; first in northwestern Ontario, then in northeastern Ontario; then for all of northern Ontario at a time when municipalities were threatened with bankruptcy; then in the old township of York, which was one of the hardest-hit municipalities in southern or eastern Ontario. He saw the sick and the less fortunate at first hand and saw that there was very little for them.

When he became Deputy Minister of Social Services in this province some 34 years ago, there were only two kinds of people who were entitled to provincial assistance: some kinds of mothers, because not all sole-support mothers qualified in those days, and people over 70 years of age. In between, it was a case of whether the municipality had a program or felt a person was qualified for public assistance.

He changed all that. The disability pensions in Ontario preceded the Canada pension plan and its disability features by many years. He changed the children's aid societies and organizations dependent upon charity and personal collections to mandated services funded by the taxpayers at both the municipal and the provincial level.

He was one of the fathers of day care and, indeed, probably his greatest contributions were

for the very young because, through his motivation, his inspiration and his innovation, more than 10,000 infants and young children were adopted and, instead of being raised in institutions or facilities without a home, did enjoy a family life. At that time, eyebrows were raised because he began that program of finding homes for children with paid newspaper ads. That was certainly heresy in the social work area at that time.

Out of that came Today's Child, Parent Finders and so on, which in the beginning managed to adopt the conventional child who needed a family and which latterly found families and brought parents forward for the handicapped, the hard-to-place and those who never before would have had a family.

I do not know how any Legislature thanks or salutes someone who has brought homes to 10,000 people who otherwise would not have had them; nor do I know how a Legislature or the public can properly salute a distinguished public servant who by his own leadership changed the homes for the aged literally from homes of refuge or work houses into the very modern system that has enabled us to provide care for the elderly and underscored the fact that the elderly in this province do have dignity.

Perhaps the Toronto Star summed up his career best when it said he would be remembered fondly because of his personal interventions; the fact that when people had troubles in their own life or their friends or family had troubles, there was always one place to go. The good and the not-so-good came to see him and the rich and the poor came to see him and the educated and the not-so-educated came to see him.

It always fascinated me over the last 15 or so years that it was almost impossible to travel anywhere in Ontario where someone did not recall a personal intervention for the better by Dr. Jimmy Band.

Today we say farewell. The flags are at half-mast in a token of salute from a very grateful province, a province that was graced by his presence and his service and that by his memory will be reinforced in its determination to do what must be done for the less fortunate.

As everyone knows, notwithstanding the enormous contributions he made to the public in this province, he did have a private life. His private life revolved around horses and horse racing. I think it touched everyone last Friday, at just about the time he was being laid to rest in Windsor. If one looks at the videotapes of the feature race at Woodbine, there was a stately mare by the name of La Vera holding on to win, and one can see the flags over the tote board at the racetrack at half-mast. Perhaps that too was one of the very final tributes to a very great man.

2:10 p.m.

Dr. Band's daughter, granddaughter and other members of his family are in the Speaker's gallery today. On behalf of a very grateful province and a very grateful Legislature—at all times he was our servant—I want to express not only our condolences, because there is no question that he will be missed, but also a final salute to one of the greatest men who has ever been in this province.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to rise on behalf of the Liberal Party to join the Minister of Community and Social Services in paying tribute to Dr. James Band. We pay tribute not just to his 16 years as deputy minister of that ministry but also to a lifetime of commitment to the people of this province, particularly those who are economically disadvantaged. His commitment to people brought progress in so many areas that are today taken for granted, from day care for our young to homes for the aged for our senior citizens.

I did not have the opportunity to meet Dr. Band. In speaking to my colleagues who were here when he was the deputy minister, I was struck by the high praise for a man who was considered a first-class civil servant by all and, more important, a gentleman in the best sense of the word.

Finally, my own community of Windsor has lost a special friend. According to my colleagues, James Band always had a special affection for that community and for those in the Legislature who represented Windsor.

To his daughter and granddaughter in Toronto and to his brother and sister from the Windsor and Detroit areas, I extend the sympathies of my party on the death of Dr. Band.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate myself with the previous speakers. I knew Dr. Band when I was critic of the ministry many years ago, when my friend the Honourable René Brunelle was minister.

More than once we agreed to disagree and, on occasion, to agree. One of the important things about Dr. Band was that he listened. He might have disagreed with you, but he listened. He gave whatever you tried to present a fair hearing. There were occasions when we made headway. The province made headway with Dr. Band, and the people of the province have been served well by that.

I want to join those who have already spoken to offer our sincere sympathy to his family. Ontario is a better place because Dr. Band was here.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

WINTER EMERGENCY SHELTER AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, two winters ago my ministry introduced an innovative, short-term assistance program called the winter emergency shelter and assistance program. That program was developed in response to the unprecedented need for emergency assistance created by the economic recession, a recession that was by that point worldwide.

The program was operated in co-operation with churches and municipalities. Its purpose was to supplement Ontario's ongoing hostel program under which the minister shares with municipalities the cost of purchasing shelter from various service providers for people in need.

The winter emergency shelter and assistance program was designed to provide short-term assistance during the difficult winter months to disadvantaged people living primarily in large urban centres; the men and women, in other words, who had been the hardest hit by economic hard times. Based on the response we received to the first program, we introduced a second such emergency shelter and assistance program last winter.

During the summer and early fall, we received many requests from interested churches and municipalities to renew the program again. We have reviewed those requests. In doing so, it has become clear that even though the economic situation is improving, there is still a definite need for this kind of program, particularly in the wintertime. I am pleased to announce today, therefore, that we will be working with churches and municipalities across the province again this winter to provide emergency shelter and assistance to those who need it.

This year my ministry has allocated \$1.1 million to this program. This will go towards providing funding from November to April 30,

1985, to centres across Ontario. Some of these centres are as follows: Brantford, Guelph, Kitchener-Waterloo, Metropolitan Toronto, North Bay, Ottawa-Carleton, Owen Sound, Sarnia, Sudbury and Thunder Bay.

I want to emphasize that this is in addition to the funds that will be spent on regular hostel beds across the province. Last year expenditures in this area amounted to about \$25.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, may I give some details about our emergency assistance program? Basically, the idea behind the program is to support and expand the traditional caring role that churches have always played in the community. Through this program my ministry provides participating churches with funds to operate various emergency winter shelter and assistance projects. These might include emergency hostels, drop-in centres and emergency programs for food and other necessities.

In Toronto, for example—Ontario's largest municipality and therefore, not surprisingly, the one we found to be most in need of this kind of program—a total of 29 churches and church-affiliated organizations participated in the program last year. Projects sponsored by these churches last year included 22 direct assistance programs, five emergency shelter programs and seven meal and drop-in programs.

In terms of emergency shelters, we provided funding through the winter emergency shelter and assistance program for a total of 238 additional hospital beds for Metropolitan Toronto last winter. That included 34 beds for women, 189 beds for men and 15 beds for families. Programs funded ranged from the Salvation Army's 100-bed emergency shelter program for men, to Rendu House, a 24-bed shelter for transient single women operated by the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

I should point out that these beds are in addition to the approximately 1,700 beds provided on an ongoing basis throughout Metro through the province's year-round hostel program.

Direct assistance projects funded varied from large projects such as the Salvation Army's nine depots, to "food cupboards" such as St. Luke's Deacon's Cupboard operated by St. Luke's Anglican Church. Direct assistance offered included food vouchers, food parcels, clothing, and emergency help with utilities, transportation and medication. In some cases, the organizations also offered practical counselling and life skills training as a major component of their program.

Of the seven daytime drop-in and meal projects funded, three, including Council Fire, a program for native people operated out of All Saints Church, were able to increase and improve their meal programs. In addition, capital funding was provided to several drop-in centres such as the Friends of the Bag Ladies centre. Here the funding went towards replacing furniture and equipment, adding shower and laundry facilities and the like.

A fact I find particularly gratifying, and I am sure the Legislature will, is that in many cases volunteers from the various congregations of the participating churches played an active role in the operation of the various projects. In fact, a large part of the success of this program can be attributed directly to the support given by the members of the congregations and the commitment of the clergy involved.

Let me point out, too, Mr. Speaker, that approximately \$780,000 is being made available for emergency shelter and assistance projects in Metropolitan Toronto this winter—about a 32 per cent increase over last year's total expenditure for the program in Metro.

Final details are being worked out with local churches right now and the program will be getting under way in Metropolitan Toronto at the beginning of November.

I can also tell the members that the majority of the 29 Metro churches and church-affiliated groups that participated last year will be providing direct assistance, emergency shelter, and meal and drop-in programs similar to last year's.

In closing, let me say my ministry continues to welcome this opportunity to work in partnership with churches and municipalities to ensure that there is immediate, emergency help available during the difficult winter months for those who need it most.

2:20 p.m.

NURSING HOME INITIATIVES

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I wish to advise the members of the House about a number of new policy and program initiatives being taken with regard to nursing homes in the province.

I am announcing today the creation of the Compliance Plan Review Board to review the physical and structural shortcomings that may exist in any Ontario nursing homes and to provide me with advice regarding the current status of nursing homes in this province.

Mr. Sam Ruth, president of the Baycrest Centre Foundation and an acknowledged expert in long-term care, has agreed to be chairman of

this board. Beginning this January, the board will review the status of each individual home with reference to physical compliance and conformity to structural standards as specified in the regulations of the Nursing Homes Act.

In addition, the Compliance Plan Review Board, when requested by the nursing home owner, will discuss any individual problems a home might have in achieving compliance with the standards. The review board will then make recommendations concerning how each case might best be resolved.

I want to emphasize that the Compliance Plan Review Board is directed towards ensuring that community-based nursing homes are maintained in our smaller communities. During the course of its work the review board may also consult with district health councils and other community organizations regarding any relevant matter about the state and the status of nursing homes in their area. The review board will therefore work towards developing consistent physical standards in nursing homes throughout the province.

I want to outline for the benefit of the members three other initiatives designed to improve the quality of life in Ontario nursing homes.

Nursing home residents who might have a complaint about their home now have recourse to discuss the matter with nursing home staff, their residents' council and the Ministry of Health. For some time, however, I have believed that an external advisory group could provide us with valuable assistance in reviewing complaints originated by nursing home residents, their councils or their representatives. I should point out that this concept has also been endorsed by both the Ontario Nursing Home Association and the Concerned Friends of Ontario Citizens in Care Facilities.

I am therefore announcing today the creation of the Nursing Home Residents' Complaints Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Dorothea Crittenden. Dr. Crittenden brings extensive experience of relevance to this task, both as former Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services and as former head of the Ontario Human Rights Commission. The Ministry of Health will continue to investigate all complaints related to the legislation under which nursing homes operate. Dr. Crittenden and her committee will be dealing with complaints affecting quality-of-life issues.

To give regional representation to the committee and in order that there might be good access to nursing homes in different parts of the province,

the Nursing Home Residents' Complaints Committee will be divided into subcommittees with a regional vice-chairman and two regional members. The regions are northwestern Ontario, northeastern Ontario, southwestern Ontario, eastern Ontario and central Ontario. Dr. Crittenden will chair the meetings in central Ontario. She will also meet regularly with the regional vice-chairmen to promote consistency and co-operation among the regional subcommittees.

As a second initiative affecting quality of life, the ministry will undertake a thorough review of the role of advisory physicians in nursing homes. In carrying out the review, we will work closely with the Ontario Nursing Home Association and the Ontario Medical Association to develop guidelines for the role of advisory physicians in nursing homes and to ensure that high standards of medical care are being maintained.

I expect as a result of this review that we will see greater involvement of advisory physicians in the day-to-day activities of nursing homes. I want to note that beginning in 1985-86 the ministry will provide financial assistance to nursing homes that have introduced an advisory physician service.

Finally, the Ministry of Health will provide the Ontario Association of Residents' Councils with a grant of \$20,000. This money will be used to help the association expand its membership and encourage a broader representation of nursing home residents' councils in the association.

I am pleased to report to the members that as a result of government actions to promote the formation of residents' councils in Ontario, councils now exist in 98 per cent of the province's nursing homes.

I trust the members of this House will give their support to these new initiatives; they reflect the ongoing commitment of my ministry and of this government to ensuring that the best possible nursing home care is being provided in Ontario.

ORAL QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education with respect to the now 13-day-old community college strike.

At the beginning we obviously were hopeful it would not go on as long as it has. Now it is very clear that the jeopardy to thousands of students across the province is increasing on a virtually daily basis. It is also clear that the work load issue is one of the issues at stake here. There have been calls from at least one side for the minister to

inject new money into the system to alleviate this work load problem to some degree.

Is the minister prepared to use her good offices to come to the two sides with some new money to put into the system to try to deal with this work load problem, end the strike and get the students back to school? Is she prepared to take that kind of leadership?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would like the Leader of the Opposition to know that within only the past four years, in the college system alone, there has been an injection of \$150 million in new money. It seems to me that is a considerable amount of new money that should be able to deal with most of the circumstances.

The allocations for this year are not as yet completed. We will do our very best to ensure that the kinds of increases that have been in place for the college system, which have been consistently above the rate of inflation for the past four years, will continue to apply for the system.

Mr. Peterson: The minister will be aware that the information she gives this House is most incomplete. It is unfair to present only that one-sided view. She knows that. She should not cause any more problems than she is already causing.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: The minister is aware of the jeopardy to literally thousands of students in the system. For example, we were told about half an hour ago that 4,000 to 5,000 students in the system who are now receiving training allowances from the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission are in jeopardy of losing those training allowances by the end of the week if the strike is not over. What is the minister going to do to try to keep those students in the system and to keep those training allowances alive? Is she just going to break faith with them and let them go their way?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The honourable member will recall that I did speak about this in answer to a question raised at the end of last week. In addition, I think I have probably provided the factual information in response to all his questions related to this dispute over the past two weeks.

It is my understanding that the CEIC is examining the matter of the unemployment insurance allowances, which are the training allowances he is talking about, to those students who are within the college system at the present time. It is determining the best method of dealing with that problem. We have provided the CEIC

with information about the circumstances, and it is a matter that is to be pursued by the commission.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, may I ask the minister why she does not reflect on the fact that while the global grants for the system have crept ahead of inflation, enrolment in those colleges has leaped ahead year by year? Whenever we have asked her about that, she has always given us the runaround that she did not have adequate figures. Surely that is no excuse.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: I wonder whether the minister has received letters such as the following from teachers at the colleges:

"When I started I taught four classes five times a week. Each class contained an average of 15 students. That is a total of 60 students. Each student was assigned an average of four programming assignments and I had about four tests per semester. That meant an average of 480 tests or assignments to mark every semester, plus exams.

"Today I teach five classes with whom I meet four hours a week. Each class contains an average of 30 students. This is a total of 150 students. Somehow, I still give them four programming assignments, but only three tests a semester, for a total of 1,050 tests or assignments to mark, every semester, plus exams."

May I ask the minister whether that does not suggest a major problem of work load and of quality education? Does it not require more of the minister than simply to stand up and tell us the grants to the colleges have crept ahead of inflation year by year?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would consider that an increase from \$312,835,000 in 1980-81 to \$463,613,000 in absolute grant increase is very significant. I do not think that is creeping. Since every single dollar of this is supplied by the taxpayers of Ontario, and it comes from no other source at all, I think it is appropriate that we look very carefully at what is being done with the money that is allocated to the college system.

I have read the figures the honourable member has related. There is no doubt there are some teachers with a fairly significantly increased work load. Does that mean the quality of their teaching is decreased? I do not think I can answer that question. I doubt that my professor friend can answer it either.

Mr. Martel: You have all the answers.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: I will remind the minister that the taxpayers of this province pay for the advertising programs, Suncor, land banks and all the other things designed to glorify her and her friends. I think she should be a little more even-handed in her description of the problems.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: On the information we received half an hour ago, the federal department is saying it is very likely to cut off those allowances by the end of the week if the strike is not resolved. We also know there are many students in courses across this province that are in jeopardy.

The minister has heretofore been secretive about her plans to make up those courses and make sure people will not fail to graduate. I give her the examples of Felice Jager, in the advanced computer programming course at Humber, who is going to lose her course. Jackie Bailey at Fanshawe, in the co-op program, is going to lose her course. We talked about nursing students at Seneca, advanced motor vehicle training at Conestoga College—everywhere there are examples of jeopardy and every day the situation is getting more serious.

Where are the minister's secret plans so these young people's courses will not be in jeopardy? Is she prepared to try to break the logjam by putting more money into the system so we will not have this problem any more?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It has been the role of the ministry to be in touch with all those who have a regulatory role in the results of the educational programs at the college level to request more flexibility. There is jeopardy of loss of the year, yes, but to say that they are going to lose their year is a misleading statement.

It is unfair to the students to suggest that this will happen when we have said we will do our utmost to ensure they do not lose the credits for the year and that they do not lose their academic progress in this year. It would be my very fondest hope that both sides to these negotiations would recognize the concern of the students in these negotiations and work deliberately to finding a solution for it.

Mr. Peterson: There are totally different positions on this. The minister said they would not lose their year, and now she is saying they may lose their year; she said she had secret plans

and now she is not prepared to tell us her secret plans.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not have secret plans.

Mr. Peterson: She told us she had them before, but now she will not share them with us.

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, please.

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. It goes back to his discussions with his friends in the rating agencies in Wall Street and his subsequent return here and the memo of the Premier (Mr. Davis) to the cabinet with respect to the transfers to municipalities, hospital boards and others.

It is obvious the financial rating of this province was in some jeopardy and that the Treasurer had to make certain concessions to those rating agencies in Wall Street. Did he discuss with them the possibility of reining in Ontario Hydro and cutting back its requirements? Did he discuss with them other options that he has of selling off some nonproductive assets, such as Suncor, the oil company that has cost this government more than \$200 million in interest alone, after the dividends, in the past couple of years?

Did he discuss with them hiving off assets such as unproductive land and putting those moneys into constructive people programs in this province? Would he not say that is another option he has to manage the finances of this province? Did he discuss it with them? Why will he not follow that route?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, we did not discuss any of those things because we did not give any future undertakings, nor were we asked to. We were not asked to make concessions, we are not expected to and, quite frankly, that is not the way the rating agencies work.

The honourable member must understand that the rating agencies are retrospective. They simply look at what has occurred. They do not look into the future and try to figure out what one is likely to do next year or get any assurance with regard to what one is likely to do, because they do not see that as their job vis-à-vis the province, the people they rate or the people who buy bonds based on that. All they are asked to do by the people who buy bonds is to look at the performance to date and assess that against other performance.

Having done that, as I indicated last week, the entire discussion is retrospective. They look at what has occurred, how good the recovery has

been, how good the improvement in the deficit has been and then decide whether that indicates the province is still worthy of a triple-A credit rating. It is all retrospective. Having done that, they concluded we were quite worthy of a triple-A credit rating.

Mr. Peterson: It is quite obvious, if that memo is factual, and the Treasurer has never denied that was the case, that he was required to shave increases this year to the municipalities and to other agencies or possibly lose the credit rating. Presumably some assurances were made, or if those assurances were not made, at least he and the Premier had taken under advisement that they had to bring in those kinds of harsh policies on the social side to maintain the credit rating.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: If that is not the case, will he go to the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), who is now involved in a very serious strike involving jeopardy for thousands of students in this province, and free up some moneys for her to inject into the community college system? It would probably end the strike if he were prepared to that. Is the Treasurer prepared to undertake those kinds of discussions, assuming the money is available?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us remember that in terms of the moneys available to my colleague and the post-secondary system and the community college sector, transfers went up by at least 7.5 per cent, if not more, and inflation is currently at 3.8 per cent. As much as the member would like to make an argument for underfunding and allowing them to fall behind, even he would have to agree that with a transfer level up in excess of 7.5 per cent and inflation at 3.8 per cent, quite to the contrary is true; they have received almost double the rate of inflation through our transfer payment increases. With respect, the member really could not make that argument.

May I say with regard to his suggestion about that memo being factual, the memo is factual. It is a Xeroxed copy of a memo that was sent around. What he is perhaps not aware of is that almost exactly the same kind of memo goes out every year in this government. It is the way we begin our allocations process. By the way, it is the way we retain good fiscal management around here, by reminding each other that it is important not to increase debt levels too much and to maintain our programs.

Just to emphasize, while the member may find the memo distressing, I should tell him that memo, in almost exactly the way it is, in one

form or another has been going out around here for many years. With respect, there has been no savaging and no cutting of social programs whatsoever during that period.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the Treasurer can tell us if there is any truth in the account that appeared in the *Toronto Sun* on October 28, 1984, in the column of Mr. Claire Hoy, who says:

"What actually happened was that Grossman, who was in New York, learned that Standard and Poor's had decided to demote Ontario's rating because the accumulated debt, expected to reach 12.6 per cent of revenue next year, was too high.

"To make matters worse the company planned to release its ratings report the next week, likely September 5, one day before Davis and Grossman were to host a major economic conference of their own at the new Metro convention centre.

"Grossman called Davis about the fiscal emergency and the Premier dropped everything and headed immediately to New York to promise concessions in return for the triple-A credit rating."

I would like to ask the Treasurer whether those three paragraphs are true and, if they are not true, can he tell us precisely and exactly in which respects they are incorrect?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, while I have a copy of that article here, I have not devoted as much time to it as perhaps the honourable member is in the habit of doing. I understand his admiration for the columnist; we all share it to some degree.

I am not going to walk through each and every point, except for a couple. It is not accurate to say that we suddenly learned the credit rating was in danger. It is not accurate to say that I called the Premier and said, "Drop everything and rush down here." That is not at all what occurred.

What occurred—and with the Speaker's forbearance I will repeat it even though I went through it last week—was that Standard and Poor's chose this year to review each province and Canada as a whole. The proof of that is contained in this third-quarter report that came out in early September, reporting on each of the provinces.

Having chosen this year to do that report, the government of Ontario, because it cares a great deal about the credit rating and keeps in close touch with all of the credit rating agencies, decided it would be prudent to go down and remind the rating agencies of the stresses we have been through and just how our affairs are being

managed. We chose to do that some time early in August. We thought that was prudent.

I should remind the honourable member that we also chose to visit Moody's in New York, which was not in the process of this kind of review, but again I thought it was prudent to keep in touch with those agencies. That is only prudent and good management.

Having heard more about the fact of a total review, I decided this was a good opportunity for the Premier to join me in repeating our assurances and our proof the government was running its affairs well. There was nothing urgent about the Premier's visit. He decided he would join me. That was preplanned before I went down there and it was at my request, no one else's request. He came down with me. We spent some time with Standard and Poor's and I spent some time with Moody's, talking about what the situation has been for several years.

I guess the final thing I should add is to read directly from the conclusions that Standard and Poor's drew. "S and P affirms its triple-A ratings on long-term debt issued or guaranteed by the province of Ontario. The ratings are based on the strength of the province's continuing economic recovery from the 1982 recession"—a recovery which members opposite still like to deny exists—"its low financing requirements relative to the provincial economy"—

Mr. McClellan: Does he mean the sputtering recovery. Is this a sputtering recovery?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member wants to call time now, does he not?

Mr. Martel: Are you in trouble again?

Mr. McClellan: He said it is sputtering. What do you mean?

Hon. Mr. Grossman:—"and its relatively stable debt level." That is what Standard and Poor's concluded.

[Applause]

Mr. Wrye: Why is the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) not applauding? Come on Dennis, applaud a bit.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let us see this for what it is.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer was in very serious trouble and he took the Premier down to New York with him to try to save his bacon.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: That is what happened. He smooth-talked them for one more year, but there is very serious worry now, as there has been in

the past, about that credit rating because of the profligate spending on so many unproductive things.

Why does the Premier's memo put emphasis on cutting social programs as opposed to attacking the nonproductive spending that the government does with such gay abandon over there, such as Ontario Hydro, the advertising, the land banks, Suncor?

Why would the government not attack that fat in its budget as opposed to social problems which we all know are desperately short of money at the present time; such as the Peel Memorial Hospital, for example, as was mentioned in today's Toronto Star. There are examples across this province that every member in this House knows about. Why would the government choose to attack that side when there are so many other areas to attack?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The record perhaps may not sustain the suggestion the honourable member makes with regard to cutting back social programs. If he will recall for a second, transfer payments to hospitals, schools, welfare agencies, municipalities, colleges and universities transfer payments, plus public debt interest, the group I have just talked about, comprises over 82 per cent of the provincial budget.

The stuff the member is talking about as the heart and soul of the problem, of course, is all contained in the other 18 per cent, as are Ontario Provincial Police requirements, assistance for the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, the Minister of Energy and the Ministry of the Environment. All of that is contained in the 18 per cent.

But if the member wants to talk about controlling tax dollars and controlling deficits, obviously any discussion that limits itself to less than 18 per cent of the provincial budget is a rather unproductive discussion. Therefore, he has to look seriously at the 82 per cent—less the portion that is public debt interest, which is about 12 per cent—if he is going to be faithful to the words that his critics use during my estimates—as they did on Friday and always do, quite properly—and that the member himself uses when he is on the campaign trail in talking about fiscal integrity, the importance of the credit rating and good financial management.

If the member does not pay attention to that 82 per cent, then he is not doing the job. With respect, he is being a little trite when he suggests that contained in that 18 per cent, together with Environment, Energy, Agriculture and Food, Industry and Trade and other ministries, is so much

fat, so much of the other things like advertising, much of which he and his Tourism critics support, that he could solve any problems we have whatsoever.

In fact, prudent management requires two things: first, sustaining the credit rating through paying attention to the 82 per cent of the expenditures I have just talked about; and second, maintaining, as this government always has—not cutting, not being lean, but maintaining and improving—the social service structure in this province, which even the member would acknowledge remains the best in Canada.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. It follows upon this saga of who said what to whom in this committee room on Wall Street, and I think we are all entitled to know.

It is my understanding from conversations we have had with Standard and Poor's that it has a five-stage rating procedure. The first stage is that there are some meetings with the so-called issuers, which in this case means the province of Ontario. Next it presents the proposed rating to the rating committee, which either affirms or changes the rating. The third stage in this case is that the province is notified of a provisional decision. The fourth stage is that the province has the right to appeal and to present additional information. The fifth stage is that the rating committee convenes again to reach a final decision.

That is my understanding, on the basis of conversations we have had with some of the analysts at Standard and Poor's, of the process that is involved. If I am wrong or if this analyst is incorrect, perhaps the Treasurer can tell us.

At what stage in this process did he first intervene? Was it by phone from Toronto? At what stage did he decide to go down to New York? At what stage did he decide to phone the Premier and at what stage did the Premier get involved in this process?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the member what stage Standard and Poor's was at. All I can report to him is that in mid-summer my staff said to me, "Standard and Poor's is doing a review of Canada, and I think we should go down, when you have a chance, to meet with them." I said, "That sounds reasonable."

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: When have I turned down a trip to New York? That is right.

Having decided to do that, I could be wrong but I think it was the following Wednesday at

cabinet when I said to the Premier—because I do not always have to telephone him; we sit together in cabinet—"I am going down to New York to meet with the rating agencies. I think it might be helpful if you came, since they are doing a pretty in-depth review of Canada." He said he was busy campaigning for the future Prime Minister of Canada but was never too busy to pay attention to important matters around here. He said, "Let me know what the date is, and if I can join you I will." Indeed, it worked out that he could join me.

I can also tell the member the Premier told me it was quite possible—and it was not worrisome to me, I might add—that he might not be able to make it. It had none of the aura that the member is trying to suggest.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I do not think we have had an answer from the Treasurer as to exactly what happened, and I think we are entitled to an explanation. We now have two accounts from reporters who, with respect to factual matters, are normally reliable, both of whom have stated on the record that the Premier of this province made certain commitments with respect to a reduction of the deficit, in the Treasurer's presence, at a meeting with Standard and Poor's.

Specifically, I would like to ask the Treasurer, were any commitments of any kind whatsoever with respect to the deficit, the levels of spending or the raising of revenues made either by him or by the Premier at a meeting with Standard and Poor's at any time?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me be clear. We did not make commitments. What I said, not the Premier, was, "In looking back at past performances, this is what I believe you, the rating agency"—and any responsible rating agency—"would be concerned about." I went over a number of issues and tried to make the point that in my budget and in those of my predecessors, we had shown proper financial management to be sure we did not reach a critical problem in this province, and they agreed that we had.

In terms of what has been interpreted in the media as a commitment, all I can say to the member is that I repeated what I have said quite publicly before in prepared texts distributed to his caucus office as well as that of the official opposition; that is, I believe that the growth of public debt interest has to be stabilized and that we cannot continue to increase the amount of money we are paying in interest costs every year. Needless to say, any bond purchaser, any rating

agency or indeed any taxpayer would find that very important and very reassuring.

If the member wants to take that as a commitment given to Standard and Poor's instead of a commitment which I gave to the public long before August 1994, let him feel free to do it. But I repeat, as I have read all this, the only thing that has been interpreted as a commitment is the suggestion that we have to continue to reduce the deficit. I am proud to be able to stand here with each and every one of my 70 colleagues and say that we on this side are committed to reduction of that deficit.

Mr. Peterson: In the Treasurer's conversations with the analysts at the rating agencies in New York, did they express to him any concern about the size of the spending on the social envelope in Ontario or the size of the borrowing by Ontario Hydro? What were their concerns in those areas?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Again I wish to emphasize that this is not a case where one goes to the agencies and bargains. I fear there is a perception now growing that one goes there and bargains with someone to establish spending levels or spending patterns that will allow them to say, "Okay, you can do this for another year." That is not the way it works. With respect, I think Moody's, Dominion Bond Rating Service and Standard and Poor's would object vociferously if it were put to them that this is the way it works.

In point of fact, all that happens is that they study the past—what you have done, where those spending patterns go, how quick your recovery has been and how you have been doing on deficit management—and they draw their conclusions from that. They do not stand back and bargain with us, saying, "If you will do A, B and C, or cut social spending or capital spending, we will leave your rating the way it is." That is just not the way it goes.

We meet with them every June, after the budget, which we did this year in Toronto. We review the budget and all our figures, and they draw their own conclusions. I am being quite honest and open when I say that any prudent treasurer, be he the treasurer of a company or the treasurer of a government, obviously argues the best possible case. That goes without saying. I did that both in June and in August. But it is only putting the case. There is no sense of someone saying: "Give me this. Take that. Adjust here." That is not the way it goes. We run our affairs; later on the rating services assess them and draw conclusions, but there is no sense of bargaining.

Mr. Rae: We have now just been told by the Treasurer that he saw this group of worthy individuals twice in the space of roughly six or seven weeks. That is very different from the information he provided this House in the last four or five days. It is substantially different. The Treasurer is shaking his head.

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Rae: Can the Treasurer confirm that what Standard and Poor's does is to give not simply an analysis of the past but an overall assessment of what it regards as credit-worthiness, which, as the Treasurer knows, is based on an assessment of future revenues; it is based on the recovery. The Treasurer has just said that. It is based on an assessment of future spending plans as much as it is based on the past.

Will he at least admit to this House that this overall assessment took place; that he has now admitted he met with these individuals twice; that the overall spending pattern of the province was discussed; and as a result of that discussion, he somehow convinced these worthy individuals to leave the credit rating a triple A?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Almost everything the member said is wrong. With respect, the member may not have seen it, but I have indicated before that every year after the budget there is a review by the agencies of that budget. Moody's and Standard and Poor's were both here in June, as they are every June. We had that meeting. They indicated that everything was just fine. That was in June.

If the member wants to put the proposition that there is something mysterious afoot, just to prove he must be wrong, I put it to him that they were here in June and nothing happened between June and August. If anything, the economy improved, and our first quarterly report which came out around that time, in August, indicated our revenue picture had improved.

Nothing happened between the budget and August that would have deteriorated the situation. In June, when they were here, they said, having looked at the budget: "Everything is fine. The triple-A credit rating is fine." That was a regular June meeting. The member already knows why I chose to visit in August. In addition to the annual post-budget visit, they had done a complete review of Canada and were completing that review. Prudently, one goes down there to talk to them about it at the time.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I want to continue this line of questioning with the Treasurer. I want to

focus now on the issue—because I do not think he has resolved the earlier question—of what happened and who said what to whom. I do not think that has been clearly determined; the story changes with each question.

As a result of these meetings and whatever commitments may or may not have been made, how is it that the government has now determined that the cutbacks and the restraint will be taking place on the social service side rather than with respect to the other side of the moon of government spending and raising of credit, which, of course, is the work of Ontario Hydro?

I know the Treasurer is aware of the fact there was a study done in the mid-1970s, an analysis by three individuals who stated that if Hydro was on its own—this is in the mid-1970s—it was agreed that Hydro's current financial position, showing a low-interest coverage, a high ratio of debt to equity, and low return on equity, would probably result in about a B or even lower credit rating.

It is only the fact that the government of Ontario is guaranteeing Ontario Hydro that has resulted in the triple-A rating. Since that time, Ontario Hydro has gone to the public markets for more than \$10 billion at the same time as the government of Ontario has gone for \$800 million, less than a tenth as much as Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Rae: Why is it that in his announcements and pronouncements thus far no statement has been made with respect to Ontario Hydro, its pattern of borrowing, the extent of its public borrowing and the fact that were it not guaranteed by the government of Ontario, Hydro itself would not have a triple-A credit rating?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The reason that memo did not refer to Hydro was because the Hydro process is quite different from the allocations process. That memo went out to begin the allocations process for 1985-86. It was a memo to ministers talking about the procedure we would follow at Treasury and Management Board and the policy and priorities board of cabinet, which is the ordinary fall exercise where we hear about the spending intentions and needs of each ministry.

Hydro, obviously, is not a ministry. It does not report to the policies and priorities board of cabinet, it does not get its funding from the consolidated revenue fund and it does not impact on the Treasurer's budget next May, where he has to fund any of the increases that are granted

this fall. That is the simple reason, of course, that Hydro is not included in that memo.

Mr. Speaker: May I have the attention of the House? Would members please not carry on private conversations, particularly when somebody is trying to answer a question. Will members please return to their seats or carry on their conversations outside the House.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it sounds as if a lot of campaigning is going on over there.

I would like to ask the Treasurer whether it is the intention of the government to deal with the question of Ontario Hydro's borrowing. Is it the intention of the government to deal with the question of the extent to which Hydro practices are threatening other government programs? It is now clear that the government is now choosing to protect Ontario Hydro at the expense of social programs and social spending.

Given the impact this is having on his decision-making process, to the extent that he is mesmerized by the triple-A rating, what does the Treasurer intend to do with respect to Hydro's debt and Hydro's borrowing practices?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, let us make a couple of points. We do not neglect to deal with Hydro's borrowing. Almost a year ago now, I asked Hydro to reduce \$200 million out of its borrowing program and it did take \$200 million out of its borrowing program, thanks to the request emanating from right here.

Lest the leader of the third party think Hydro is in a critical circumstance in terms of the amount it is borrowing, we had our triple-A credit rating last year with a projected provincial deficit of \$2.7 billion, as opposed to \$2 billion this year. When Hydro was going to borrow \$200 million more than it did, there was no problem with the rating. Subsequently, I cut \$200 million off Hydro's borrowing. Hydro is, therefore, obviously borrowing at least \$200 million less than it could and still retain its triple-A credit rating. That is the first point I would like to make, to have very clear and to have on the record.

Another point I would like to make about Hydro is to suggest the member looks at how it is doing at all those things he says indicate it is out of control. Its debt-equity ratio in 1984 is at its lowest level in nine years, its interest coverage is the second best in the last 10 years and its interest as a percentage of revenue is lower now than it was 10 years ago.

Those are hardly indications that Hydro is growing and that its financial circumstances are deteriorating to the degree the member would like to suggest. In point of fact, it is quite the

reverse. Hydro's circumstance is improving and has improved quite dramatically over the last nine years.

Mr. Martel: Tell us why it is seeking a rate boost of 8.5 per cent. That is not the provincial guideline.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Those are the figures. Challenge them if you wish.

Finally, let me make this point to the leader of the third party. He talks about us being mesmerized by the triple-A credit rating. What worries us, and perhaps what mesmerizes us, is the circumstance where the old federal government was paying 32 cents of every dollar it raised in interest. We are currently paying 12.6 cents of every dollar in interest and that is why we worry about the credit rating. When we lose the credit rating, the interest rate goes up and, therefore, the amount of money we pay in interest goes up. That means, quite directly, we are paying interest to banks instead of providing social programs.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer can be very direct in answering this question. In his discussions this year with the rating agencies, can he indicate whether those rating agencies made any reference of concern at the size of the social policy envelope in the Ontario government?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Treasurer to address himself to this phenomenon. Hydro rates are going up by 8.5 per cent. That is a symbol to the ordinary consumers of this province of what it is costing them to pay for the overbuilding and for the excess capacity that now exists as a result of government policy.

How does the Treasurer think the ordinary family feels when it sees class sizes increasing while its kids are going to school, when it sees the quality of roads going down, when it sees the Ontario government spending two cents for every federal dollar on nonprofit housing and then sees this memo last week saying everything is going to be held to three per cent right across the board in all the social service areas at the same time as Ontario Hydro is getting an 8.5 per cent increase per annum? How does the Treasurer think that feels to the ordinary family?

Does he not think this is a very clear message to the ordinary family that the government of Ontario has decided to protect those who have power, wealth and a vested interest and to stick it in the neck to those who do not have any of those things?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, the next time the member has a chance to chat with someone whose opinion he might respect—say, Bob White—ask him if he thinks American Motors would be locating in Brampton if it were worried we might have brownouts somewhere down the road 10 years from today. Ask him if there would be thousands of jobs coming into Oshawa if General Motors thought it might be facing electrical problems 10 years down the road.

Let me tell the member what the ordinary consumers in this province would be saying. The ordinary consumers in this province are saying they are paying significantly less for power today than those in most other jurisdictions and that they have the best electrical energy system in the world.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They would be saying that.

Just to get some balance on the horrible situation the member opposite tries to draw, let us be honest. Consumers not only have the best electrical system in the world, they not only have very competitive rates and very reliable energy, but notwithstanding the horror story the member paints, they also have the best roads, the best schools, the best education and the best public housing anywhere in the world today.

COMMERCIAL FISHING QUOTAS

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Provincial Secretary for Justice. Is he aware that a decision by Mr. Justice Smith of the Supreme Court of Ontario on October 15, 1984, declared certain federal and provincial fishery regulations to be unconstitutional and of no force and effect?

Is he also aware that his colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), in his attempt to enforce these regulations by confiscating fishermen's property and lifting fishermen's licences, has acted in deliberate and contemptuous contravention of the declared law of this province?

Is the minister aware of these actions, and what is he doing to ensure that the law of the province and the determination of the Supreme Court are respected?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, in light of the involvement in this case and the decision of the court, I know the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and particularly the legal department of the Ministry of Natural Resources are now looking at the question.

Mr. McGuigan: What assurances has the provincial secretary issued to fishermen so that they can continue the lawful pursuit of their work and not be threatened and intimidated by ministry officials?

Hon. Mr. Walker: I have issued no assurance. It is not my responsibility to issue an assurance. The member will have to ask that of the Attorney General, and I will convey the question to him.

3:10 p.m.

REGULATION OF REST HOMES

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health based on a statement he made in the Legislature last week referring to rest homes. The minister said, "If members of the rest home association are saying there are persons being inappropriately admitted to rest homes, then they ought to cease that practice."

I would like to refer to two statistics. We checked with two placement co-ordination offices. We could have checked with many others, but this will prove the point. Is the minister aware that in Windsor there are 24 individuals of whom the placement co-ordination office is aware who have extended care certificates but who are placed in rest homes? In Ottawa there are 46 individuals who have extended care certificates but who are placed in rest homes.

Does the minister not understand that because there are inadequate numbers of nursing home beds available, people are being inappropriately placed? Since he says rest homes do not provide medical and health care, does he not understand these people who have extended care certificates have very substantial health care needs and their needs are obviously not being met in rest homes? What is he going to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I would be pleased to check into the specific cases the honourable member has raised. On previous occasions he has made the same allegation, which gave rise to my having an assessment done of the residents of a particular nursing home, and not done by staff of my ministry I might add. The conclusion arrived at was that his information was incorrect, that the residents were not inappropriately placed.

If he has the names or at least some means of identifying the rest homes in which these persons are resident, I will be willing to have them checked out. In some instances it is possible the assessment upon which his information is based may not be correct. It is obviously a matter of concern to me if people are being inappropriately

placed. I know some are in hospitals when they might be better off in long-term care facilities. I recognize what gives rise to that problem, and we are trying to address it. With respect to rest homes, there ought not be persons there who require nursing home care.

I do wish the member would not sit like a dog in a manger with what he alleges to be information about inappropriate placement of people in rest homes, only to use it on the floor of this House but not to forward it to me for appropriate action.

Mr. Cooke: I will give this information to the minister. It is on a letterhead from the Victorian Order of Nurses which sent the information, signed by Margaret Ann Prince, placement co-ordinator.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: I would like also to point out to the minister that one of the other statistics in this report from Margaret Ann Prince is that there are two people requiring chronic care who are also in rest homes in Windsor.

Does the minister not understand that as long as he refuses to regulate rest homes in Ontario, as long as rest homes remain in the private sector and bodies and individuals mean income for these rest homes, they will take anyone and everyone. Anyone who is in touch with health care in Ontario and talks to placement co-ordinators will tell him this. As long as they are unregulated they will take anyone they can in order to generate revenue. People are being very poorly served and their health is at risk because there is no regulation.

When is the minister going to act to get at the real root of the problem, which is province-wide regulation of rest homes in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The honourable member has been around the mulberry bush on this one many times. He knows full well that the appropriate and competent level of government to deal with rest homes as a place of accommodation is the municipal level. Municipalities have the authority to pass appropriate bylaws to ensure standards. They have the authority through the local medical officer of health to insist on appropriate health care standards. The constant thrust coming from the member and some of his colleagues on the opposite side of the House to try to have everything in this province done out of Toronto is totally inappropriate.

I suppose the next step is to have every individual home inspected by the Ministry of Health to ensure an appropriate standard,

in which case I am sure my house would immediately be in jeopardy.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, the minister's statement that the municipality should be looking into this is absolutely nothing short of incredible. To suggest that property taxpayers have that kind of role in the health care field—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: So that I can pin this down very specifically, my question to the minister is, will the minister commit his ministry to get in touch with Margaret Ann Prince, who is a placement co-ordinator, and review thoroughly on a case-by-case basis the need for nursing home care or care in a home for the aged of people who are now improperly placed in rest homes so that, for once in our lives, rather than deal in a very narrow area, we can look at the whole problem community-wide?

Will the minister make that commitment and will he commit himself to get back to the Legislature or to the members of the standing committee on social development during the Health estimates which are starting this afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, by the sound of it, the exercise the member wants me to make a commitment to undertake would take much longer than I expect the estimates to take.

I have already indicated to his colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke) that if he would provide the information upon which he is basing his question I would be quite happy to try to explore it.

I am willing to do anything that is reasonable, but I would hasten to point out that I wish the same were true on the other side of the House. If the member were to put the appropriate kind of pressure, if he had the guts to do it, on his own community, with his own local municipality, he would not be standing on the floor of this House perpetually bellyaching over the fact that his municipality is not doing its job.

ELECTROSHOCK THERAPY

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the same minister. Since we are talking of someone having intestinal fortitude—I believe that is another expression for what he said—let us see whether he has it or not.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: I have a copy here under the heading of the Ministry of Health for Ontario of an announcement of a study with respect to electroshock therapy. It says very clearly in this

announcement that organizations are invited to make written submissions. I would remind the minister that it was his own concern, as a result of a decision made by Madame Justice Mabel van Camp, that this whole issue should be investigated and that this commission should be set up.

But the minister is well aware that there is tremendous consternation outside of this Legislature that Mr. Clark, chairman of the committee, is not permitting public hearings.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: Knowing of that consternation, can the minister advise us why he would allow such a practice to continue?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Absolutely, Mr. Speaker. In fact, I felt from the very beginning that, although the committee ought ultimately to be allowed to make that decision on its own, the last thing a problem as serious as this ought to be is a media circus but should be dealt with in a very deliberative fashion.

If the member reads carefully what Mr. Clark has said, he made it clear, based upon the written submissions—and they need not be learned documents that are submitted; a simple letter from individuals who have a concern will suffice—and based upon the information they receive, they may well decide that further information, further clarification or discussion is merited, and they will invite individuals or groups to come before them on that basis.

That is quite a different matter, I agree, from holding what the member presumably regards as public hearings. When one is trying to address the moral, ethical and human dimensions of this particular issue, I do not think a media circus is the appropriate way in which to do it. I think it is time we started to address some of these serious issues in our society in a deliberative fashion, not in an entertaining fashion.

Mr. Sweeney: I would most certainly concur with the minister that we do not want a circus. That is obvious.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

3:20 p.m.

Mr. Sweeney: But the minister will appreciate that, of all the groups of people who would want to have something to say on this, one of the most—I use the word “one” deliberately—significant groups would be those people who have undergone the experience themselves.

The minister will also be aware that Dr. Tyrone Turner of the psychiatric medical patients' advocates program has indicated that it is most difficult, and in some cases impossible,

for these very people to make a coherent written report simply because of their experience.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: On this basis, if we do want to hear from these people and if a written report is not appropriate for many of them, would the minister not agree that there has to be some opportunity for such people to be heard orally and in some public forum? Otherwise, the whole confusion and the whole problem are simply going to continue even after this report is submitted.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If I could deal with the latter part of that question first, again the emphasis is upon public forums. If, as the honourable member has suggested might be the case, the concern arises out of the difficulty in articulating one's concerns by those who have experienced it first hand, surely the last place in which one would be able to articulate it would be in a public forum before television cameras and media people. It would seem to me that if one has difficulty in articulating concern, that would only exacerbate the situation and make it worse.

With the announcements we have had in the last while suggesting that there are a number of solicitors in the community who have volunteered to help individuals prepare submissions if they wish, with the kind of concern that has been expressed by Tyrone Turner—I might say that statement on his part only reinforces, thank goodness, his independence from the policy of this minister, from the committee and from anything else relating to the ministry—perhaps he would volunteer his assistance as well to help those individuals who cannot articulate their concern to do so either in writing or otherwise before the committee.

I reiterate that the structure of the committee is one that is designed to ensure there is an equitable consideration of the range of issues before the committee with respect to making sure there is representation of the encroached consumers or those persons who have had first-hand experience, that there are spokespersons there who represent their interest.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister must be aware that this whole process has been one that has been less than satisfactory. First of all, the committee was not neutral in its original composition and the minister had to be convinced to accept representation from consumers. I understand Carla McKague was finally appointed.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Cooke: Does the minister not understand that if he is having a public process and individuals want to go in camera to make a presentation, surely that can be accommodated, as is done in our standing committees here in the Legislature?

Why does he not look at this as not only being a process to develop public policy but also a process for public education? Through the news media there can be public education on this very important issue. He should open up these meetings to the public so there is confidence from the individuals involved on both sides and so the public is educated. Will the minister not reconsider that position?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I shall not. I want to make it perfectly clear once again that the committee was struck at my request for purposes of offering me well-informed and carefully deliberated advice. I have no intention of creating a body to provide me with that kind of advice and then to thrust it before television cameras so as to create entertainment and the sale of newspapers in this province. I want this to be a very serious and deliberative process, and I hope that will be the case.

The honourable member's allegation that the original structure of the committee did not take the consumer into consideration is patently false. In fact, there is representation on the original committee by persons who were recommended by the advocacy group. If the member does not happen to believe it, I can prove to him that is the case. It is true that since then one additional person has been added. I did not make that decision; I left it to the chairman's discretion.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that standing order 72(a) respecting notice of committee hearings be suspended for the consideration of Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the City of Nepean; Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the London Regional Art Gallery; Bill Pr30, An Act respecting the City of Belleville; and Bill Pr32, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa by the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments on Thursday, November 1.

Motion agreed to.

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that in the standing committee on administration of justice the time allocation for the estimates of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations be reduced

to 11 hours and 28 minutes; in the standing committee on general government the estimates of the Ministry of Labour be reduced to 15 hours; in the standing committee on social development the estimates of the Ministry of Education be reduced to 14 hours; and in the standing committee on resources development the estimates of the Ministry of Energy be reduced to 12 hours and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to 10 hours, to be taken up following completion of the estimates of the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND ECONOMICS (continued)

On vote 1001, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Chairman, is the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) going to be here for this? Is anybody aware whether the Treasurer is coming in, or is there someone other than the Treasurer here who can answer questions? Is the parliamentary assistant to the Treasurer here? I am told the Treasurer is out with the press.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Kerrio): Yes. He is expected back.

Mr. Haggerty: Let us move adjournment until he gets back.

Mr. Bradley: Is there a provision to move the adjournment—

Mr. Kolyn: Just keep talking.

Mr. Bradley: I will proceed because I am so co-operative.

Mr. Kolyn: The Treasurer is here.

Mr. Bradley: The Treasurer is now here. I understand these things and I am quite accommodating to the Treasurer. I am not being critical of him at all. One never knows when question period will end and so on.

The House leader of the Liberal Party, who is also the finance critic for the Liberal Party, will be coming by soon to take up the debate. He has asked me to raise a few items for him with the minister.

I am going to take advantage of the opportunity to raise an item I chatted with the minister about, if not in the House certainly on a personal basis, the last time there was an opportunity during estimates before the House, either supplementary estimates or the estimates

themselves. It is a matter affecting the drydocks in this province, and if I can be parochial enough to mention one, it happens to be in the provincial constituency of St. Catharines.

3:30 p.m.

The Treasurer will know that one of the reasons the Niagara Peninsula has experienced such a high rate of unemployment during the past few years is the lack of contracts in certain areas. It is my understanding, for instance, that last year the minister placed \$12.5 million for drydock construction in his budget. His excuse for not proceeding at that time was the age-old excuse, which was available then, that the federal government would not move on it. The minister indicated he was not prepared to allocate provincial funds unless he could also have funds from both the federal government and the private sector.

The minister said at that time: "As my staff recalls the specifics of that item, one quarter of the amount was to be put up by the companies, and they indicated their willingness to do so. We have indicated our willingness, as evidenced by our allocation here, to come to the table as well and provide that degree of funding. The federal government to date has not been willing to make a firm commitment to those projects. When it does, our commitment will be drawn down. I am informed that the private sector has indicated its willingness to participate to the extent of 25 per cent. All we need is the federal contribution."

He went on to say, when pressed in the House on this matter in November 1983: "All parties have agreed that federal participation is necessary to make the project go. We stand ready in this circumstance to fund the amount we have indicated as being set aside and committed for that, provided the federal government comes in for its portion." He also pointed out: "But drydocks are a federal responsibility. We put those moneys up to try to lever quicker action and get those projects under way." There was mention of three shipyards and works that could be done.

What I am attempting to draw from the minister this afternoon is what commitment he now has to programs that would assist drydocks in this province. For instance, when I look across the Welland Canal as I drive down the Canal Road I see a drydock that is almost empty. There is a small federal military ship there at the present time that is receiving some servicing. But if one talks to the employees, the union members and, I guess, the management as well at the drydock, one will find that the prospects for new contracts

are not very good. They would certainly look for some help from the provincial government in updating and expanding the drydocks to be able to undertake projects that might not otherwise be possible.

I believe this minister expressed some interest in the last year and said that if the federal government would get moving, he could get moving as well. I will be looking for an answer from the minister on whether he is prepared to offer more hope to the drydocks in this province which have been hit by the economic recession.

The federal government has over the years moved projects around from east coast to west coast, Quebec and Ontario, in an attempt, I guess, to balance out the employment. But we are now at the short end of the stick and in pretty desperate straits. Many of those people who are unemployed from the drydock have looked to other areas and have moved out of the community; others are waiting to see whether the provincial government is prepared to move on this item.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether we are going on an item-by-item basis in which the critic sits down and gets an answer or whether you want me to go through several items. I will keep going through several items; the minister indicates he would prefer that method.

Second, I would seek the minister's opinion on ad valorem taxes. He was not the Treasurer at the time the ad valorem gas tax was introduced, for instance. Obviously we have liquor and tobacco taxes that use the same principle. He was not the Treasurer when this was brought in, and I would like this minister to express his views on the fairness of the ad valorem automatic tax grab. The disadvantages that members of the House will be aware of are that it makes consumers hard pressed and adds to energy costs when we have this ad valorem tax on gasoline.

In the May 1981 budget, after the election, the government introduced a new method of taxation for gasoline. The tax rates were changed from a fixed volume or per litre basis to an ad valorem percentage basis, to be established at 20 per cent of the retail price and adjusted four times a year. In February 1981, the tax on a litre of regular gasoline was 4.2 per cent per litre or 19 cents per gallon. Of course, that was before the election that took place on March 19, 1981. The May budget increased it to 5.4 per cent per litre or 24 cents per gallon.

Thus, as we all recognize, as the price of gasoline increases, so does the amount taken by the Ontario Treasury. It imposes a built-in

increase that will take effect automatically with every rise in price, four times a year. Because the ad valorem tax is the last tax to be imposed, it taxes other taxes, including federal excise and sales taxes.

By this action, the government has allowed inflation to move forward. We are happy to see inflation coming down, but the government is not contributing to that by allowing for this escalating tax. Every time the price of gasoline goes up, the growth in the amount of revenue taken by the Ontario government through its ad valorem tax is compounded. Indeed, Ontario takes more tax at the pump than Alberta receives at present using that method.

As recently as July 1, 1984, the government raised the tax at the pumps to eight cents per litre or 36 cents per gallon. Provincial gasoline taxes have jumped by 100 per cent in the past three and a half years. To make matters worse, the tax increase is often based on inflated figures when the gasoline price falls because of price wars.

This unwarranted tax grab will give the government a windfall profit of \$976 million next year, up by some \$44 million from last year, and I presume when we are talking about this year we might be able to expect that.

There is another thing the minister should be concerned about. As a person who probably has a belief in the legislative process here and a strong belief in the checks that take place through budgetary increases that come through revenue bills, the minister must share the feeling of those of us on this side of the House that a hidden tax is not a good tax. A tax that automatically takes place and does not have to be justified to the Legislative Assembly is not a democratic tax.

Certainly the provision is there, and he has the power to do it—no one denies that—but it would be far better, if he needs further taxes, to come to the House to attempt to justify them by explaining where expenditures are increasing or the reason he happens to need those revenues. Of course, he can sneak this by the people of Ontario because it is an automatic tax, and it may be considered to be politically smart or shrewd to do so, but I wonder whether it contributes very much to the democratic system in the province.

When the minister has the opportunity to do so, I would like him to comment on his view of the ad valorem gas tax. To be fair to him, he was not Treasurer at the time that was introduced. I recognize he was a member of the cabinet and, therefore, had to support a cabinet decision, but, as a person with a clean slate when he came in as Treasurer, I wonder whether he has any plans to

go back to a more discernible tax, a more visible tax and one that can be called to account in the Legislative Assembly as often as possible. That is another area I would like the minister to look at.

3:40 p.m.

Another area is sales tax exemptions. Once again, the Treasurer was not the person in charge of the finances of Ontario when some of the sales tax exemptions were brought forward. Given the battle that some of us fought against his predecessor's 1982 budget, we felt we should press this Treasurer to restore some of the former exemptions, and I would like to know whether he has any plans to do so.

The tax on feminine hygiene products is an obvious example. Our views on this are well known. We have expressed them in the House and outside it. The exemption level for shoes is another. All of us have noticed when we have talked to family people around the province that one of the things they talk about is the exemption on shoes. That was a good exemption, but \$30 is simply not good enough any more. The current \$30 ceiling for tax-free status was set in 1974 and has never been altered.

Many people in the Canadian industry are worried because they cannot compete with the low-cost shoe market. If the ceiling were adjusted for inflation, it would stand at about \$70 today. That exemption of up to \$30 was a good one. At that time it was probably appropriate, considering the price of shoes in 1974, but we are talking about 10 years later and we are talking about a particularly inflationary period of time. I suggest to the Treasurer that he make known to this House his desire to see that raised substantially, I hope to \$70, which would make it equal in value to what it was in 1974.

There was considerable discussion, particularly during the federal campaign, and the three parties seemed to agree to some degree that there was a need for some kind of minimum tax. People in this province or this country—let us look at the provincial tax, for instance—should not be entirely exempt from taxes, manoeuvring the system by legitimately using the tax breaks available to people in this province.

The member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid) raised the issue of a minimum income tax last spring some time before it became a high-profile item during the federal campaign. If my memory is correct, and Hansard bears this out, the current Treasurer basically supported the idea and urged us to speak to our friends, relatives and colleagues in the federal government. Since his

Tory friends are now in power, it is probably worth asking the Treasurer how avidly he is pursuing this reform.

As a person who will be announcing later this week that he is pursuing the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario, and ultimately the premiership until at least the next election, I would be interested to know just how vigorously the Treasurer is pursuing the matter of a basic income tax with the federal Minister of Finance, that is, the idea that everybody in this country should pay some tax. The three political leaders agreed with that, in varying degrees, in the last campaign. This Treasurer sounded as if he was in favour of it. I want to know how vigorously he is pursuing it.

There are also the federal taxes that go up and increase the provincial take. Both the House leader of the Liberal Party and the leader of the New Democratic Party raised the issue of the automatic revenue increase Ontario received as a result of the one per cent increase in the federal wholesale tax.

The leader of the NDP cited a figure of around \$50 million as the gain for Ontario resulting from the federal government increasing the federal sales tax rate on manufactured goods from nine to 10 per cent, on tobacco and alcohol from 12 to 13 per cent and on building materials from five to six per cent, effective October 1. This estimate, with which the minister may or may not agree, was provided by the leader of the third party. The best estimate of the cost of the federal increase is about \$1 billion, of which about \$400 million would be collected in Ontario, that is, the federal tax collected by the federal government in our province.

The Ontario seven per cent sales tax on this tax would net about \$28 million from this amount. Given that other higher sales tax rates apply for some products, such as alcohol and tobacco, and the inexactitude of the federal estimate—it says \$30 million or \$35 million is probably the best estimate of the provincial windfall over the next year as a result of the federal action—and since the increased federal rate is scheduled to remain in effect until December 1988, Ontario's total windfall over four and one third years will undoubtedly exceed \$150 million and will likely reach \$225 million when inflation and growth in sales are considered. What I am pointing out to the Treasurer is how he gains revenue by having the federal government apply taxes and he slaps taxes on top of them.

I see the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) coming into the

House. He must be interested in this because during his estimates he will face questioning from members of the opposition on the prices of some of the products that come under his jurisdiction through the Liquor Control Board of Ontario. He knows that his government benefits considerably when taxes at the provincial level are slapped on top of taxes at the federal level.

If neither of these ministers has the clout with the federal friends he now has in Ottawa to ask them to rescind this tax, which in opposition they said was almost a sinful tax, I ask what action the provincial Treasurer in consultation with the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is prepared to take to alleviate this problem.

Another area that has probably been pursued by my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), the critic for the Liberal Party in the field of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, is that of unemployment and the allocation of funds in the Treasury estimates for solving unemployment problems.

I represent part of a region of Ontario that experienced an unemployment rate last winter of some 22 per cent at one point. That was certainly not very pleasing to the people of our area.

I now hear the minister talking about having to cut back to keep the deficit down. We understand the deficit cannot go completely out of control. However, I look at some expenditures that even the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, who is on the left wing of the party, would probably not agree with or probably was not told about. I think of Suncor. One of my favourites is the \$650 million spent on Suncor.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Is that not the one Jimmy Coutts likes?

Mr. Bradley: Jimmy Coutts is certainly a federal person—

Mr. Eakins: It is the one Frank Miller did not like.

Mr. Bradley: Those who think that was such a wise expenditure probably should all end up in the same place. The voters of Spadina obviously disagreed with Mr. Coutts on that issue.

Mr. Rotenberg: It was not the issue that beat him.

Mr. Bradley: Supporting the Ontario government on Suncor probably in itself defeated him.

Mr. Rotenberg: You were never in Spadina if you think that.

Mr. Bradley: I know the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) agrees with me on that.

Mr. Rotenberg: Not at all. That was not even an issue in Spadina.

Mr. Bradley: Being a strong right-winger, he would not have agreed with that expenditure. He is a person who believes in fiscal responsibility. He established his reputation in the municipal field.

I look at the allocation of funds to municipalities that the minister will make in the Treasury estimates. Going back to the combination of the unemployment problem and the municipalities' problem, what really concerned me was when I looked at the transfer payments.

The minister says: "We have transferred enough money. They have to cut back. They have to live within these budgets." That is all well and good, except they often have to carry out mandated programs. In the case of boards of education that is the case, and it is also the case in situations facing municipalities at the regional or local levels.

Particularly when we faced high unemployment in specific areas of the province last year, what happened was that those people had to pay their property taxes. If someone makes less money because of unemployment or other reasons, he pays less income tax. He probably does not spend as much money so he pays less in sales taxes. However, the one tax he has to continue to pay is the municipal property tax, regardless of what his financial circumstances are.

When the city or municipality or whatever sends a bill to a person, unemployed or not, that person is obligated to pay the bill. If it happens to be \$1,500 in taxes for one year, that bill shows up. In our area, it would pay for regional government, local government, and at least a portion for education.

3:50 p.m.

A person is obligated to pay that, yet that person's income is down substantially. That is why it is important for the minister to work both on the problem of unemployment and on making sure municipalities have sufficient provincial funds to carry out their obligations.

The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has arrived and wishes to carry on with many of these issues.

Mr. Nixon: Not for a long time yet.

Mr. Bradley: He is out of breath. I am told that happens when one gets over the age of 40.

Mr. Nixon: Those steps are very steep.

Mr. Bradley: The steps get longer each time.

I would ask the minister to deal with some of those items I have brought to his attention. I am parochially interested in the drydock situation

and am interested in the other ones as a province-wide politician.

I will resume my seat now. The minister can reply and then no doubt others will want to intervene.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, I might just try to assist my friend with some of those items.

With regard to the federal tax changes and what the member describes as a "windfall," might I say I would not call them "windfalls." Sometimes changes can work against the province. In such cases, he would not be calling them windfalls. I do not know what the reverse of a windfall is offhand, but I would not be too happy with that. What would one call that?

Mr. Bradley: A vacuum.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Maybe. On balance, what we all have to remember is that the taxpayers end up paying it one way or another. The honourable member mentioned a figure of \$150 million—I do not know whether that is right—over five or 10 years. The fact is, while in the first year the member is right, the Treasurer does not have to come here and report or get approval for a tax increase, the taxpayers at least can assess what the Treasurer has done with the added tax revenues they have paid. They can assess whether the Treasurer has gone for more money or applied it against the deficit or whatever.

It is not really a windfall to anyone. In a sense, the only windfall is it makes it a little easier politically when the Treasurer does not have to come here and get permission for another tax increase.

On the other hand, what the members have seen from our financial statements in the past is that much if not all of those increases in revenue has gone to reduce the deficit. It seems to me that indicates the taxpayers are benefiting very directly. It is not as though the government is getting additional revenues which it is spending on things that were not otherwise needed. That indeed would be unfair to the taxpayers.

As for basic income tax, I think it is more accurately referred to as minimum income tax. I wrote to the former federal Minister of Finance on June 7, 1983. I do not want to take more than an appropriate share of the credit on this one occasion, but I think that letter may have touched off the round of discussions that is now occurring at the official level among the various governments in Canada on the question of minimum tax. We are well on the record.

Mr. Bradley: The minister is pursuing it vigorously with the new minister?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am pursuing it as vigorously with the new minister as with the old minister, obviously with more hope of success now.

The member asked about the ad valorem question. Because the most recent ad valorem tax was put on gasoline, it tends to get singled out as a special ad valorem new departure in terms of tax policy. I would argue that many if not most taxes are of an ad valorem nature. The retail sales tax is quite simply the same as the ad valorem tax on gasoline. Every time an item increases in price, be it an automobile or a shoe horn, the amount of dollars produced for the government, for the taxpayers as it were, out of the same tax that I have not come back to this House to get approval for, increases fairly significantly, but it is the same tax rate.

I do not hear anyone suggesting that every time any of the thousands of items subject to retail sales tax goes up in price, we should come back to this House or, in the alternative, keep the value of the seven per cent tax on a \$13,000 automobile at the same level, even though the price of the automobile goes up.

The principle would be quite unusual if we said that every time the same tax produces more revenues we should be back in the House. After all, the ad valorem tax on gasoline operates exactly the same as the retail sales tax. One could extrapolate that argument, with some qualifications, to income tax, where the more one makes, the more one pays. It is even an exaggerated ad valorem tax.

Mr. Bradley: That is not entirely true with income tax.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is.

Mr. Grande: In Ontario the less one makes, the more one pays.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, I know all about it. The member is wrong.

The member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) has raised the question of the dry docks with me previously. In the period of time since he last raised it, we have been continuing discussions with the government in Ottawa to try to arrive at a way to accommodate upgrading of our Ontario shipyards which do, as the member has indicated, need that upgrading.

It is a very large and expensive proposition and one I know the member has agreed with me earlier does properly call for and require federal assistance. While we are continuing those

discussions, and we are pursuing them quite vigorously, as the member would say, we have had a situation arise in Collingwood. With the assistance of the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague), we have agreed to provide \$1.5 million assistance to the shipyards there for construction of a state-of-the-art freighter. Discussions of a similar nature are being held with the Port Weller drydocks which want to undertake something along the same lines.

I consider that assistance extremely important in both circumstances, but if I were asked whether that should be the purported solution to the problems our drydocks are facing, my answer would be no. I wanted to raise that, however, because it does indicate our continuing commitment. We are not simply saying to the shipyards or drydocks, "Nothing is going to happen until the federal government comes up with some assistance." We are doing what we can to help while we continue negotiations.

Finally, I should say we will have drydocks on our agenda as one of a number of items we wish to take up with the new government, commencing with the fall round of discussions with the federal government on economic matters.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, unfortunately our critic the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) is in Port Arthur today on important constituency business, but other members of our party have a number of questions we would like to continue with and to place before the Treasurer.

I am particularly interested in asking him some questions relating to women. I hope, since the Treasurer has now declared he is a leadership candidate, he will be struck by the same bolt of lightning that struck the leadership candidates in both the Conservative and Liberal parties. It made them discover that women's issues are very important and that they should pay some attention to them, particularly in their campaigns for the leadership and later in their campaigns for the votes of the electors in the federal election.

4 p.m.

I am expecting the Treasurer to be all ears when I raise some women's issues to find out his position on them.

Mr. Grande: The Treasurer should pay attention.

Ms. Bryden: I am not sure whether he is listening. He has not been struck by the bolt of lightning yet.

I would like to raise the question of the record of his own ministry in the matter of women's

issues. If one studies the latest report of the women crown employees office, one will find his ministry is not a shining example of progress in closing the wage gap for women in particular.

Unfortunately, the latest report we have from the women crown employees office is for 1982-83. That came out about a year ago. At that time, when questions were asked about the next one, it was promised that the one for 1983-84, for the year ending March 31, 1984, could be expected about mid-fall. We have not yet seen that one either, so I am still basing my comments on the 1982-83 report. I would hope there has been some considerable improvement since that date.

Let me draw to the minister's attention a few of the figures on page 140 of the 1982-83 report regarding his ministry.

First of all, it shows that the average salary for women in the ministry is \$24,805. The average salary for men is \$35,718. That means women make 69.4 per cent of what men make in the ministry. In the Ontario public service generally, the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch) keeps pointing out to us and boasting that, overall, women in the Ontario public service are now making 75.8 per cent, almost 76 per cent, of what men make. The wage gap is only a mere 24 per cent.

That is progress over the previous year by two percentage points, but the wage gap in the Treasury is 31 per cent. That is something the minister is going to have to account for when he is travelling the province on his campaign for the leadership.

Also, I noticed that the number of what one calls ACD initiatives, or accelerated career development initiatives, used by the ministry in the fiscal year 1982-83 was nil. The government boasted about setting up this incentive fund to help women move into jobs above the ones they were holding. The fund was to pay the extra salary for a period so the ministry would not necessarily have to put up the extra money and there would be bridging for six months to a year while a woman moved into the higher ranking job and somebody replaced her in the job she had been holding. Apparently, none of that incentive fund has been used by the Treasury.

The report does say there were other ACD initiatives taken up by 10 women. That may have contributed to a slight improvement in the number of women represented in the higher ranking administrative module. There are still only 37.5 per cent of women in the administrative module and very few in the professional and

technical modules, particularly the technical. Actually, the percentage is nil in this report in the technical module. I am not quite sure what technical jobs the ministry has. Are the accounts-computer operations in that module?

The other item that strikes me is the report boasts that the ministry has set up an affirmative action newsletter to let women in the ministry know about affirmative action. The government has had an affirmative action program which it boasts about on its books for over 10 years. If it just setting up a newsletter to let women know about it now, one wonders why it was keeping it a secret. It probably was very inactive.

The report also draws attention to the fact that the ministry published a brochure, entitled Accelerated Career Development and Affirmative Action MBR Planning, a rather ponderous title. This brochure, it says, was prepared to assist managers in developing action plans that address affirmative action goals and objectives.

One wonders what the managers have been doing up to now and whether the brochure is just coming out now to tell them what kind of plans they should be developing. It seems to me that, like other ministries, this ministry is great on commissioning and publishing booklets, but very little is happening in the action field.

The women crown employees office report also says it has set up a public relations task force within the women crown employees office drawn from various ministries, including the Treasury, which I believe furnished the chairperson of the task force. That task force's job was to do public relations on affirmative action programs within the Ontario public service. Again, public relations seems to be the strong point of the ministry, but there is very little action.

In talking about public relations, I draw to the Treasurer's attention the fact that in 1983 we spent \$27 million on advertising. That was the highest figure ever. It was 933 per cent above the figure 10 years ago. Where is the restraint in the minister's advertising program? We have been sixth among the top advertisers in Canada for the last four or five years, so we are certainly among the big spenders here. Yet the Treasurer keeps saying there is no money in the pot for community colleges to expand their staff.

It is true that the grants to community colleges have gone up more than the cost of living, but so has the enrolment. It has gone up tremendously, mainly because young people just cannot find jobs. They are all deciding that further education is a possible answer, a possible route to a job, and so they are flooding into the community colleges.

Classes are being doubled and the teachers are being overloaded when classes double. But the Treasurer and the Ministry of Education have no money to give the community colleges to add to staff and overcome this overload.

I have heard stories from many community college teachers that the overload is very real in very many areas. It may not be so in every area, but particularly in the popular areas, such as business administration, computers and math, the overload is real and teachers are being stretched beyond their capacity to handle it. They are suffering from stress and illnesses and they are really being asked to work very close to what might be called speedup or slave labour.

4:10 p.m.

The Treasurer does not have money to overcome that overload. He does not have money for more day care spaces, particularly day care spaces with subsidies. We all know that women cannot go out to work unless there is adequate day care, and so they end up on welfare. That also costs the Treasurer money, but he does not seem to see the connection between providing adequate day care and keeping women off welfare.

He is not able to find more money for chronic nursing home beds to overcome the great shortage of space in acute bed hospitals. Some elective surgery is being held up and people's lives are at risk in those hospitals because there is not enough space for people to get in. It seems to me that the \$27 million on advertising would create quite a bit for some of these things I have suggested.

Getting back to women, who are affected equally with men on these community college problems and more affected on day care problems, I would also like to ask the Treasurer when he is going to improve pension plans for women. Only about 30 per cent of women are covered by private pension plans and they are covered at very low rates because in many cases their pensions are based on their wages and they are in very low-paid occupations. As a result, many women come out of the work force on retirement with very inadequate incomes.

The Treasurer has been promising great improvements in the private pension sector and trying to ride through on that. I guess he hoped the election would intervene before he had to do anything about it. When are we to see this promised legislation, which will increase vesting and which will increase the obligations of private pension operators, so that we do not have situations such as the CCM situation where they

just do not pay their share of contributions into the plan and when employees discover after the firm goes bankrupt there is no money in the pot, the government can do nothing because it did not check up on them earlier? When are we getting that promised pension legislation?

The minister did refer in his leadoff speech to the areas in which he hoped to bring in legislation, in which he has been promising to bring in legislation. He mentioned we had now reached a broad consensus on major private pension issues, including vesting, membership criteria, survivor benefits and minimum employer contributions. We have had so many reports, white papers and green papers on pensions from both the federal and provincial governments that there is no lack of assessment of the need and no lack of proposals for reforming the system. There just seems to be a lack of will across the floor there.

While the Treasurer may point to the small movement he made on the guaranteed annual income supplement, fitting it in with the increased federal pensions, which were part of the pre-election buildup, he has only supplemented the federal increase. He has done it in two bites, so that pensioners are having to wait until December to get the full amount of the additional help he was promising.

I guess he hoped the election would be called before he had to ante up with any further help in the public pension sector. Single persons particularly have been very badly treated by the Treasurer over the past many years and have been getting much less than 60 per cent of what a married couple gets. It is high time we saw some action. When is he going to move farther in the field of public pensions in order to make them adequate, particularly for single pensioners and particularly for the large numbers of women who are living below the poverty level? At least two thirds of single women over 65 are living below the poverty level.

The third area where I hope the Treasurer will show us some plans for action is in response to the technological revolution and its impact on jobs. Has he studied the impact of technological change on his own ministry? Has he really looked into how many jobs may disappear? If he has, has he discussed this with the civil service union so that it is alerted? Is he planning both retraining and readjustment programs for the employees of his department and of the Ontario public service generally who may be displaced by technological change?

As the Treasurer well knows, the New Democratic Party had a task force last year which produced a 20-page report with 42 recommendations on how adjustments to technological change could be made so that those who are displaced are not the victims of technological change, but will share in the benefits of any increased efficiency that comes from technological change.

So far, practically none of the recommendations of that task force has been implemented, including provisions for shorter working hours so that we take some benefit from increased efficiency and pass it on to the employees. That task force called for full involvement of the employees in planning for technological change. It also suggested that the government and the Treasurer might look at early retirement—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I am not. Thanks anyway; but I am not looking at early retirement.

Ms. Bryden: —for those employees who wish to take it. The Treasurer may have to do it. There are people who would be quite interested in retiring early and opening up jobs for young people coming up if the Treasurer would see that those people had adequate pensions with bridging conditions in their pensions.

My leader has suggested a pension adjustment fund that could be made up of contributions from employers which could go to help employees who opt to retire early, say, at 55, until their pensions come in at 65. I am sure Inco would grab the idea because it has been offering early retirement to many employees and has been finding that employees are accepting it. They are doing this to open up jobs for younger people in Sudbury.

The Treasurer says he is not planning anything about early retirement.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am not planning anything personally—no early retirement.

Ms. Bryden: I see. It is just the Treasurer himself. I am talking about making early retirement legislation generally an option.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As always, I want it for others but not for myself.

Ms. Bryden: It may be that the voters at the leadership convention will give the minister an early retirement.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It could be.

Ms. Bryden: I understand a task force on the impact of technological change has been appointed by the government. Unless I have missed the tabling of it, I do not think it has reported to the Legislature or brought out any recommenda-

tions yet. Has the minister himself been involved in looking at its report? Can he tell us how it might affect what the impact is going to be on his own ministry? It seems to me he should be looking into that problem and making definite plans to readjust the working conditions and training of people who will be affected.

4:20 p.m.

Those are three areas I would like the Treasurer to comment on and indicate what kinds of action we can expect. The fourth area, and this is my final one, is the question of the wage gap resulting from the failure of equal pay for work of equal value in this province. Professor Gunder-son recently estimated that women were underpaid by from \$1 billion to \$3 billion as a result of the lack of equal pay for work of equal value laws. In looking at this figure, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) said we could not afford to bring in equal pay for work of equal value because the price was too high.

Of course, somebody is paying that price. The women of Ontario have been paying similar sums for years to subsidize employers, in effect. It seems to me the cost of discrimination should not be put on the backs of those who are discriminated against but should be put on to the general economy to overcome that discrimination.

I ask the Treasurer, since we are in a state of recession and the outlook for the winter is not very good, is he looking for means of stimulating the economy? If he is, why does he not consider a staged program to bring women up to equality in wages? That will create a great deal of purchasing power in Ontario. Those women who are underpaid will go out and spend that money immediately on raising their standard of living, their standard of housing, their educational qualifications and many things of that sort. He would find there would be a great boom resulting from putting that \$1 billion to \$3 billion back into the economy. It is one of the best ways he could spend money on job creation.

I ask him why he has rejected this proposal. Is it not a better way to stimulate jobs than to create all these little make-work jobs that look good on paper but do not really produce very much?

I particularly refer to the ministry's new book called *The Job Book*, which came out from Ontario youth opportunities. It contains a list of several thousand jobs available to young people. The only catch is that they are only jobs that last for five and a half months. I would ask the minister to look at that book, too.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, I must say right from the outset that a number of those issues, which are very important issues, are unfortunately not really issues involving the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. For example, training and retraining, readjustment and other questions with regard to the Ontario public service most properly lie with the Civil Service Commission and the Chairman of the Management Board (Mr. McCague), who reports for the Civil Service Commission.

Having said that, I think the honourable member will find in our budget and other initiatives a number of programs of which women inside and outside the public service can take advantage and which are specifically pointed towards the training and readjustment issues the member talks about.

I was most pleased to hear the member discuss the task force on employment and new technology. That is being done under the auspices of the Ontario Manpower Commission. It was funded by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, which I chair. We are looking forward to receiving the task force report.

Ms. Bryden: When is it due?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In June 1985.

Ms. Bryden: Is that before or after the election?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member for Beaches-Woodbine will have to wait and see. Frankly, I hope it is before, because I would like her to be here to discuss it.

Mr. Grande: The Treasurer is so cynical.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My friend is too.

I can reflect back to 1979 and 1980 when—I have caught the member's disease; my voice is fading as was my friend's—under my auspices, the Ministry of Industry and Tourism had a microelectronics task force which not too many people understood or paid much attention to at the time. Its report was the first of its kind prior to the great change that came upon us through the 1980s. I acknowledge that it dealt with the kind of issues that are much better developed today than they were at that time, given what everyone has learned since then. I wanted to mention that because it shows we were not unaware of these issues. We were working on them, doing reports long before the problems and job dislocations were so apparent. We were working on the issue as the technology was being introduced.

When one looks at some of the statistics coming out of the recession and the recovery, one will find that through a variety of measures—

changes in attitude, training programs; all of those things—we are having some success. As always, the technology comes in more quickly than we can quite anticipate, but in our ability to cope with those things we are not doing all that badly.

This year, through the budget, we have put in place our technical upgrading program. Members will be aware of that program and the fact that almost all the persons taking advantage of it are women. It is the kind of program the member talked about in her remarks. It has proven to be a very successful program. Likewise, the training in business and industry programs, TIBI I, II and III, have provided many more opportunities for women to enter nontraditional occupations. Again it is a program for which we continue to increase the funding because of its success.

I could share with the members some of the statistical comparisons of pre-recession and post-recession periods. All of them indicate the kind of improvement in wage differentials which the member and everyone acknowledges. To acknowledge what my colleague the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues has acknowledged—and he is dealing with it all the time—the reality that the gap is not closing quickly enough is unfortunately to state what we all know. We recommit ourselves, as we are apparently doing with some success, to playing our part in closing that gap.

The member has no doubt asked all the ministries questions relating to the role of women in their ministries, about the numbers and senior positions. The member will find good progress across the board, as no doubt the Deputy Premier has pointed out to her. She will find a much greater geometric progression in the years to come, given the groundwork that has been laid. The task force report expected in June 1985 will help us all in dealing with some of these technological issues over the next decade.

4:30 p.m.

The member mentioned pension reform, and I am glad she raised it. First, with regard to the guaranteed annual income system, the select committee with representation from all three parties—that committee was either chaired by or greatly assisted by the chairman of the committee of the whole House today; is that right?

Mr. Chairman: I served on it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: When he was parliamentary assistant for Treasury and Economics he played a major role in developing the Ontario position on pension reform. All the members of that committee recommended that the guaranteed

annual income system single guarantee be at least 60 per cent of the couples' guarantee, and that is what we are accomplishing now.

In terms of the balance of pension reform, the member is aware of the initiatives that have been taken. I know the member would want to be fair to us and acknowledge that we have made great progress since August 1983, when the Premier (Mr. Davis) got the agreement of all the other Premiers that Ontario should chair the first-ever provincial meeting of ministers responsible for pensions.

Pension reform discussions have been going for 10 years now. We have had both provincial and federal suggestions. To be fair, we have accomplished a great deal. I had the pension ministers here in June, subsequent to many excellent meetings with officials from all provinces, trying finally to move beyond general conception and general policy and get into some specific agreement on the form.

Mr. Grande: It has taken 10 years.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, it only took me 10 months.

We met here on June 5. One of the important things I would like to mention is that the federal government asked whether it could send some representatives to that meeting. Provincial meetings are not usually places where one finds federal delegates. They tend to be meetings where provincial ministers get together—the old federal government would say “gang up”—to discuss our frustrations and our needs in terms of federal government funding and federal government policy. By and large, those meetings have been quite useful and important over the years, and I have been at them in four or five ministries now.

This particular meeting was not one where the pension ministers were gathering to exchange secret information about the federal government or to plot strategy, as used to be the case in the area of health care. This was a genuine effort by provincial ministers to try to reach a consensus on pension reform that would not only assist us but also would move towards finalizing legislation on a national basis. To have done that without federal government representation would have been a mistake, in our view.

I wrote to all the pension ministers and asked them for their concurrence in having federal government representation at this provincial pension ministers' meeting. They agreed. When we met in June, we had federal representatives there with us, who reported back to the then federal Minister of Finance. That was most

helpful in getting genuine consensus across Canada and across party lines on pension legislation.

I want to point out that in the past 10 months, after 10 years of dialogue and discussion, we have made quite significant progress. To be fair, it culminates royal commission reports, the report of the federal select committee under Mr. Frith, the provincial select committee—

Mr. McClellan: Provincial select committee?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I mentioned it while the member was out, and the sterling contribution made by the member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jones).

Mr. McClellan: Can the Treasurer share some of this so-called progress with us? Some of us are getting a little sceptical.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have, but I will be pleased to review it.

Mr. McClellan: I will read it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I want the member to hear it.

The point I wish to make is that while we have made a great deal of progress over the past 10 months, to be fair to all our predecessors at the federal and provincial levels, that progress was only possible because of the extraordinary work that was put into a very complex and difficult subject over the past 10 years.

Mr. McClellan: It is not that complex.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I find it complex. The member may not.

Mr. McClellan: Somehow I do not believe the minister really does.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I find it very complex. Given that groundwork, in credit to all the governments, we took the reports and agreed that no more reports were necessary and that we had to move fairly expeditiously towards legislation. The Frith report was out in January. We met in June and achieved consensus at the provincial level on about 21 of 23 or 24 points. That is exceptional progress and agreement.

Mr. McClellan: The government could have done it 10 years ago.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Not so. Let me say why we could not have done it 10 years ago. We have been through extraordinary changes in terms of pension plans and how they operate and the impact of inflation on those pension plans. There is information available now on a historical basis that was not available when pension legislation was first talked about in 1972 or 1973.

I was not responsible at the time, so I need not be defensive about it at all. I can only say that had some of these pension reforms occurred in the early 1970s, the then unknown impact of inflation on pension plans would have wrought some very severe stresses on pension plans and our ability to fund them, to deliver the benefits and to understand the appropriate benefits and the appropriate first stages in pension reform.

Now we have a great deal more information. It is empirical, it is well known and it is well understood, and we face far less danger now from the impact of inflation on the changes we are about to make.

Mr. McClellan: One would think the government was inventing pension plans.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We are reinventing them.

Let us look at the major terms of consensus. One is compulsory eligibility for membership of full-time and part-time workers after five years of service. I should add that some jurisdictions are opting for compulsory membership; at the moment, Ontario believes only compulsory eligibility is appropriate. Another is vesting and locking in of the accrued value after five years of service. Yet another is minimum employer contributions of at least 50 per cent of the accrued benefit upon termination or retirement; I suggest that is a very important and significant change.

Is the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) retiring? Why did he shake his head?

Mr. McClellan: We are talking about the by-elections on December 13.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What by-elections?

Mr. McClellan: St. Andrew-St. Patrick is one of them.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is what I get for missing a cabinet meeting.

Preretirement survivor benefits of at least 60 per cent of the accrued pension and post-retirement survivor benefits of between 60 and 66 2/3 per cent also have been agreed upon.

Regarding the inflation protection issue, one might say that Ontario is providing the leadership in that area. We are the only jurisdiction that wants to provide that protection. Having studied that issue very carefully, I am satisfied that we will be able to reach some consensus on this very important issue with the other provinces when we next meet.

I will not review the other 15 or 16 points of agreement. However, they are very significant, and I want to point out to the members that the pension ministers will be reconvening once

again. The current scheduled meeting date is December 3, happily here in Toronto. I am satisfied that 1985 should be the year when we can achieve new pension legislation across Canada with a great measure of uniformity both in the provinces and at the national level. That is very good progress in terms of pension legislation.

Having chaired that meeting, I might say I found that the pension ministers were very anxious to achieve uniformity and reform, and we were all fairly optimistic about our chances to do that in 1985. That implies a willingness among the 11 ministers that we move off some of the positions we hold. It will require a great deal of thought and consultation, but if we are all serious about it and if we believe in uniformity, which I think is essential, each of the 11 ministers will have to contemplate making a few alterations in the position he has taken.

4:40 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: There is no opposition to any of this stuff; there never has been.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Sure there is. Only Ontario supports inflation protection.

Mr. McClellan: There has not been any for five years.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Only Ontario supports inflation protection, and that is very key, of course.

In any event, I am optimistic on those points. With regard to some of the other points that have been raised, if they are extremely important ones, I offer the advice that they would more appropriately be dealt with either by the Chairman of Management Board or by the Deputy Premier, who have direct responsibilities in the areas the member has discussed.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, the Treasurer has already defended today his scurried trip to New York in the company of the Premier to maintain our credit rating, but I did want to say something about the pressures that have come on the credit rating and about what he might do even if he just follows the example of his illustrious predecessor.

The minister may recall my brief remarks on Friday afternoon in which I pointed out to him something he probably already knew by drawing together some of the very bad decisions and some of the unfortunate events associated with Ontario Hydro. He may recall that I made reference to the general overbuilding of Hydro, resulting in a capacity well over 50 per cent beyond our requirement; that in general we permit, for

comparison's sake, a cushion of 25 per cent in potential hydroelectric development, but that even this is a very large cushion for a mature agency such as Ontario Hydro and that 18 to 20 per cent would be considered sufficient. The overbuilding is tremendous and, of course, it was provided with dollars borrowed on the international money markets at high interest rates.

The administration of Ontario Hydro has contracted on a long-term basis for 12 million tons of coal a year; we are using about nine million tons. It has contracted for oil, which we do not use at all as a fuel. We have agreed to take delivery of 22,000 barrels a day until April 1992, I believe. We are currently in the courts with Petrosar trying to wriggle out of that agreement.

Our uranium contracts are really the most amazing ones ever entered into by any corporation, public or otherwise. We gave Stephen Roman an exploration fee for uranium he had already found. We even put a special clause in his contract guaranteeing him a profit equal to or greater than that of any other uranium company in the Elliot Lake area just in case he might have made some slipup in his calculations.

As a result of our deal with Mr. Roman and the other uranium mining corporations, we expect to have before the end of the century a surplus of 23,000 tons of uranium—above and beyond what we can use at Darlington and 12 additional Pickering reactors of that size—and the surplus will have cost us \$2.7 billion. We have mothballed \$2.5 billion in expensive installations, many of which are by no means used up; some of them, the oil-fired installations, have not even been fired up at all.

We have an absolute fiasco on electrical transmission lines that is going to result in our bottling up power in the Bruce atomic plant starting within the next few months and going on for at least four years, the cost of which is almost impossible to calculate since it will have to be replaced by expensive energy from coal sources.

Our business dealings in heavy water, particularly our contracts with Lummus Canada Ltd., have resulted in cost overruns approaching \$1 billion. Even though former Treasurer Darcy McKeough cancelled one of the huge installations, we still have a tremendous amount of heavy water being developed or potentially to be developed in the Bruce facility for which there is absolutely no possible market.

Our contracts with Babcock and Wilcox are really quite amazing. They were entered into by Ontario Hydro at the behest of the government of Ontario. They are no-fault contracts; no matter

what Babcock and Wilcox does wrong, it cannot be charged for it. The contracts were let without tender; there is no performance guarantee; there is built-in inflation protection. The American Babcock and Wilcox firm has no liability whatsoever. We have agreed to give the firm payment before delivery.

Because of an argument between Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and Ontario Hydro as well as Babcock and Wilcox, they insisted on defying their contracting partners and going ahead with an unusual heat-annealing process which meant their boilers, even after they had been put in place and set in cement at Pickering, had to be removed and fully remanufactured. It is estimated this mistake alone will cost Ontario Hydro and the energy users of the province \$850 million.

The problems of decommissioning our atomic facilities are almost unbelievably gargantuan. The facilities are designed to be in operation for 40 years and we are already close to half-way to that point. There has been no build-in of any decommissioning costs. There already is the example at Three Mile Island. That is unlike any decommissioning we will have, but the problems of working in a situation of high radioactivity are somewhat similar. It is estimated that we will have 30,000 tons of high-level radioactive waste to dispose of and, as yet, there is not even an inkling of a procedure for such disposal.

If the present Treasurer finds himself Premier within the next few weeks or months one of the problems he will face, probably towards the end of his regime 18 months from now, will be the disposition of high-level radioactive waste.

The politician does not live, and I do not expect will live in the future, who could persuade any community to have this radioactive waste buried in plutons underneath its community. Even in the far reaches of the north, or anywhere else, the problems are going to be such that we are not going to be able to cope with them.

Acid rain largely comes from the burning of coal and the sintering of nickel ores. Ontario Hydro is at least the second largest source of this pollution. The costs of reducing the depredations of acid rain have never even been calculated, let alone approached by the public utility.

The Treasurer may recall that in the list of promises we were supposed to help the Premier keep three or four years ago was one designed to cut acid emissions from Ontario Hydro stacks. Even though this was included in an early speech from the throne by the government following the last election, absolutely nothing has been done.

The credit rating problem is one that concerns us all. The Treasurer has indicated this was just a matter of passing interest, but he perhaps will remember the quote from Darcy McKeough that I read to him on Friday in which the former Treasurer indicated in 1972 that he was not going to permit this province to get to a point where Ontario Hydro had gathered to itself all the borrowing powers of the province, leaving the province itself to use its normal revenues to support and expand our social services.

In spite of his warning, we are now at the point where Ontario Hydro uses all our international credit, or all we choose to use at this stage, plus it is getting a larger and larger share of the money that we borrow automatically or naturally from the Canada pension premium paid on behalf of Ontario, and from other sources. It is like putting the head of the camel in the tent. The camel is all the way in except for its rear end at this stage. As I understand Ontario Hydro, it is pushing to get even that part of its anatomy into the credit tent that has been built so carefully over the years.

4:50 p.m.

We have not had a Treasurer who dealt with this matter since W. Darcy McKeough. In July 1975, he peremptorily cut \$1 billion out of the borrowing program of Ontario Hydro for that year. I do not know whether he even consulted with the Premier.

The Premier has often had a special arrangement with Ontario Hydro and I have a feeling Darcy felt that if he consulted he probably would have been stopped. Knowing him as slightly as I do, I have a feeling he is quite capable of sending a missive, probably tied around a rock, down to Ontario Hydro headquarters with "Cut off \$1 billion" written on it.

In January 1976, he announced a cut of \$5.2 billion in the 10-year capital expansion program of Ontario Hydro. Since that time nothing of any significance has come from Queen's Park towards Ontario Hydro by way of any sort of rational control of its \$90-billion expansion plan.

When we think of what the people of Ontario Hydro tend to commit by way of capital expansion, it should shake even the present Treasurer. The Premier coped with this by putting a political lieutenant in at the chairmanship of Ontario Hydro. I think he probably felt that in this way he would at least be able to know what is going on and know there was somebody there who thought the way he did.

I personally do not feel that chairman, Mr. Macaulay, was tough enough to indicate to the board of Ontario Hydro that it would have to

draw in its horns. It is almost like getting into a church; unless a person supports the basic tenets of that religion, they are going to kick that person out the back door.

The first basic tenet of the religion of Hydro is exponential growth. The second basic tenet is there is no way too much money can be spent on the capital installations for Ontario Hydro because in the long run we will need it and it will be seen to be politically good.

I feel the former chairman, Mr. Macaulay, has bought both of those tenets of Ontario Hydro and because of that he did not provide the brake on its expansion we should have expected.

Now we have the former Deputy Treasurer as chairman of Ontario Hydro. It may be—and I do not know the relationships particularly—that the Treasurer has confidence that he will bring in a harder fiscal approach to what Ontario Hydro is undertaking.

Frankly, I have my doubts. The reports so far have been that the new chairman has been rather shaky in his grasp of the business of Hydro when he has appeared at any public forum that has been reported. I am not prepared to be critical of his actions other than that I have not seen anything that has been commendable in taking a new approach under these circumstances.

I would simply say the Treasurer and the Premier—who may be the same person—simply have to consider seriously the effect of Ontario Hydro's long-range plan, not on our triple-A rating—I feel sure we will be able to maintain that, at least in the reasonable future—but in the long run.

I felt after the election of 1981 that the pollsters and certain others convinced the present Premier that the people want too much electricity, that they feel comfortable when the Premier says: "Is it not great to have too much rather than too little?" I think probably that is right, but somewhere in between there comes the place for a hard-headed management decision, which I think is going to have to be imposed on Ontario Hydro by the government of Ontario.

I do not know the solution, except that I want to express my regret that this House approved legislation making Ontario Hydro a crown corporation rather than the commission it had been from its inception. When it was a commission, we had a cabinet minister as vice-chairman of that commission. He not only could report to the House, but also carried some responsibility on behalf of the government, the cabinet and the Legislature and on behalf of the people.

I would say further, unless we get some sort of direct control—and if it has to be a political control, so be it—religious fanaticism based upon unjustified exponential growth is going to have something more serious to do with our credit rating than we envisage at the present time.

Since we are really on the first vote, I want to raise another matter having to do with policy. I will do it rather briefly, but it is a matter of great concern to me. The Treasurer may be aware of a book called *The Great Brain Robbery* by three University of Toronto and York University professors, David Bercuson, Robert Bothwell and Jack Granatstein. Granatstein is the only one I know personally. I believe they all have good reputations and I believe the book—

Mr. McClellan: Are they all Liberals? I do not know.

Mr. Nixon: Granatstein and another writer produced one of the first rotten articles about my hero Pierre Trudeau, and I will never forgive them for that. Maybe he is now regretting it himself, but that is another matter.

I just want to say the Treasurer should not simply discuss this book with the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) who, once again, has to defend the status quo. She has been minister long enough that she is really a part of the status quo in education, and maybe that is a good reason for the next Premier to consider moving her to the Treasury or something more challenging.

Mr. McClellan: That has a defeatist assumption behind it.

Mr. Nixon: I think we are going to have a new Premier before we have a Liberal Premier. The member should think about it.

I do not know how the NDP, with only two members here, can be so disruptive. If they are not talking to me, they are talking to each other at the top of their voices.

The Deputy Chairman: I call the honourable members to order.

Mr. Nixon: I simply want to recommend to the Treasurer, even if he is just preparing for this little contretemps in the party in the next little while, that I certainly think it is essential that he understand this book, referring to a decline in the quality of education, has something to do with more than just the operation and management of the universities and colleges.

The minister is probably aware that in the *Financial Post* in the last two issues there has been a series of articles indicating the impact of education quality on the economy of the nation

and particularly this province. There is quite an interesting quote from Hyman Solomon, whom the minister may know, in the most recent Financial Post. I will not read all of it. I will read just this: "The Post's two-part series, concluding this week, points out that much of corporate Canada considers the problem and its resolution a key to industrial survival and international competitiveness."

They are referring to the problem as a national crisis in higher education. I simply leave it at that, rather than discussing it in any further detail. Particularly in Ontario, the three authors writing this book underline the problems that we are experiencing in funding an up-to-date curriculum, the problems of tenure and the problems of quality both in the faculty and in the student body.

I am sure members are aware that many faculty members in our university and college system have attacked this book vociferously and that obviously they feel everything is fine and the only thing we need is a lot more money. It may well be that more dollars are required in the post-secondary system, but I would assure the Treasurer—maybe the next Premier—that this, too, is a basic problem that a new, "revitalized" regime in this province is going to have to consider.

It is obvious that we are not turning out graduates either with the broad liberal education required in a modern business situation or with the sort of up-to-date specialized education that is going to give these young people an opportunity to take part in the world of work. It is a matter of grave concern that I believe the Treasurer and the head of the government have to consider, as well as the Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities.

5 p.m.

In drawing my remarks to a close, I also want to pick up on something my colleague the member for St. Catharines mentioned earlier in the day. The minister made a defence of the ad valorem tax which is an interesting one. He indicated that, of course, sales taxes cannot be ad valorem taxes and that all they are doing is bringing the other taxes into line with income tax and sales tax.

The minister, however, is aware that placing an ad valorem tax on motor vehicle fuels three years ago in 1981 and making it a movable ad valorem tax, depending upon the price as it fluctuates up and down, has doubled the revenue since 1981 for that particular tax without the government's ever once coming to the Legisla-

ture for approval of such a large new tax. The tax, as it was then in the old English system, was about 19 cents per gallon and it is now about eight cents per litre. This compares very well, from the revenue standpoint, with the take of the government of Canada and even of the government of Alberta.

I think we should realize this particular tax is a very high revenue producer now, since the Ministry of Revenue establishes what the ad valorem figure is by way of a formula, rather than specifically by what people are paying at the pump.

The reason I want to raise it specifically is that the minister, in response to complaints that came from the tobacco marketing board of Ontario, indicated he felt there should not be a policy in this province of placing provincial tax on provincial tax. There was some thought in the tobacco-producing community that, because of that, he would remove the sales tax from tobacco products, which already had a provincial tobacco tax placed on them.

The Treasurer has failed to do that and the ramifications are very far-reaching. When the government of Canada under Mr. Mulroney decided to go ahead with the additional one per cent tax that had first been established but not brought into force by the former Liberal government, that is, the increase of one per cent on liquor and tobacco products, the ramifications were very great. The federal tax went up by one per cent, but the effects on the provincial tax were also great.

I noticed a special release came out from the Liquor Control Board of Ontario saying its facilities were going to be closed down, as the prices of liquor and other products coming under this tax were increased. The products that were already in the stores before the tax was levied were sold at the old price, but a 40-ounce bottle of liquor had another 80 cents, I believe, added to the bill.

I suggest to the minister, particularly in these areas where he levies tax on his own tax, he might very well consider rationalizing that approach. If it is the decision of the government, supported by the Legislature, that these taxes go ever upward, even while in the case of the tobacco tax it is evidently having a very serious downward effect on sales, then at least it should be on the basis of a tax that is clearly understood and that is not a hidden tax. I hope the minister will be able to respond to that.

I also hope in the three hours and 40 minutes remaining we will have an opportunity to look at

the specific votes in these estimates. The House may decide simply to use the time for general discussion. However, it seems to me there are quite a number of opportunities, in interim supply and so on, when general speeches and general responses on the economy of the province and tax policy are possible.

I hope on this occasion we might be able to go over the votes specifically, so we can look at the information provided by the ministry in its briefing book and get specific answers in the informality of this House as it acts as a committee of supply on these estimates.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, I listened today as carefully as I did last Friday to the comments about Ontario Hydro and about some of its specific policies, whether it had overbuilt or not. Obviously, those matters properly lie within the purview of my colleague the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes).

Let me endorse, however, very strongly, at least from the Ministry of Economics side of my portfolio, the view that does say, and the member has acknowledged this, it is better to overbuild than underbuild.

Mr. Nixon: It is better to do neither. Build just right. Try it for once.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: A good old 1937 Liberal technique.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know the member served with me on the select committee on Hydro shortly after I entered the House in 1975. One of the things I always remembered took place early in 1976, I guess, when all sorts of groups came in to project average annual growth rates for electrical demand during the next decade. We have almost completed the decade we were then talking about.

I remember we called in the Sierra Club—I know the member will recall that day very well—which came from the United States. That very esteemed and low-priced lawyer Alan Schwartz had brought in the Sierra Club in order to bring to the committee the most extreme view available on the downside of predictions.

In 1976, when Hydro was saying seven per cent, some others were saying six or 5.5 per cent, but most were netting out at six per cent, I remember the Sierra Club came in and shocked the committee by suggesting—I could be wrong by one percentage point—four or five per cent. I forget which one it was. Even Evelyn Gigantes—and who knows where she may turn up in the next 44 days, let alone the next six months—

Mr. McClellan: Right here.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have some money with me. We could wager on that. I lost my last bet.

Mr. McClellan: On this one you are on.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Okay, you are covered.

Even Evelyn Gigantes was sceptical about whether it would be as low as four per cent, but that was the lowest figure we ever heard. With great respect, I did not hear, even from the third party, any suggestion it would ever be below four.

Mr. Nixon: The recommendations from the committee were eventually at three per cent.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Shortly after we heard the Sierra Club—

Mr. Nixon: It went down to zero.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is right. My point is that when Hydro is charged with the task of planning to build plants that take 13 years from decision date to the day they come on stream, and when the the circumstances are such that demand for electrical energy is so unpredictable as to be—

Mr. Nixon: Darcy McKeough was clairvoyant.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He was on many issues.

Mr. Nixon: He was a good Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He was a fine Treasurer, as was his successor and my predecessor, and as will my successor be, provided he or she is from this side of the House.

Mr. Grande: Encourage him to come in.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There is room for everyone.

Mr. Nixon: In politics if anything bad can happen, it will. That means he is going to run.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: How do you know that is bad? It could be very good.

Mr. Nixon: It is not good for you, kid.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In any case, the point I want to make is that the situation is so volatile that even the lowest predictors in 1976 said four per cent, and three years later it was zero. Hydro has to plan 13 years out and make a judgement 13 years in advance with regard to what the demand is going to be, and that is a very difficult task.

To be fair, I know the member sat on that committee. I can only go on what I heard, and it was several years ago, but it has been sustained by others I have spoken to in my discussions internationally. It is a view that the people at Hydro are, given the inexactness of that science,

pretty good compared to all others who are in the business and forced to make serious and difficult decisions 13 years in advance.

Mr. Kerrio: They are all wrong and you are right.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They are not terrible. With respect, they are the best there are. The problem is that the variables 13 years from today are somewhat hard to predict. None of us would like to have to make billion-dollar decisions today on the basis of an estimate of what economic conditions, demographic conditions and international circumstances are going to be brought to bear 13 years from today. It is very difficult.

5:10 p.m.

I guess all I can say is that history will show Hydro has been pretty good. It erred on the right side. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has agreed that one has to err on the safe side, which is to build more, not less. When one looks at the post-Darlington scenario, one will find that a reasonable level of economic growth, say, three or four per cent extrapolated over the next 10 or 12 years, will leave us in a circumstance by the turn of the century where what now seems a huge surplus will not be a surplus. It will prove to have been the right amount of energy.

Mr. Nixon: We will be paying for it for 30 years.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There is nothing new about that. One has to pay for these things as one builds them.

Mr. Nixon: Without using it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, the point being—

Mr. Nixon: The minister is justifying all that overcapacity. I do not see how he can do that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If Darlington were not being built now, the electricity would not be in place when we needed it. One cannot decide by—

Mr. Nixon: They claim they will need it by 1994.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We cannot decide in 1995 that we are going to need a lot more electrical energy and begin to build a Darlington in 1995, when it will be needed in 2000. One does not have five years; one needs 13 years. Those decisions have to be made 13 years in advance. If we have a percentage growth rate of three or four per cent steadily from now to the end of the decade, we would have—

Mr. Nixon: You are speeding up Darlington.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It has not been speeded up. There have been delays.

Mr. Nixon: Sure it has.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. That is wrong.

Mr. Nixon: You delayed it and then speeded it up, right after the election.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, it was speeded up and then delayed.

The member has talked about the part that properly relates to Treasury, which is Hydro's borrowing. I have some points I should make. Last year at this time, as I indicated in question period today, we cut \$200 million from Hydro's borrowing. That indicates continuing awareness by this government of the circumstances—

Mr. Nixon: That \$200 million will not last two days.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is something of an exaggeration. It was a big reduction. It is \$200 million on about \$2 billion this year. The figure is \$2.4 billion this year. That is a fairly large reduction of about 10 per cent. It is a significant reduction. They have absorbed it. As I said in question period today, that indicates that since we had our credit rating intact at a \$2.7-billion provincial deficit, and with Hydro borrowing \$200 million more than it ultimately turned out to be, Hydro is today borrowing significantly less than would create a problem with the credit rating.

The second point is that the honourable member has suggested Ontario Hydro uses all our international credit. That is not the case. There is a lot more money available to us. It is a credit to us that neither Hydro nor the provincial government chooses or needs to go for more money internationally or domestically.

Mr. Nixon: Available at a triple-A credit rating?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It surely is. It would cost more within the triple-A credit rating range, but Hydro and the province could borrow some amount more without endangering it.

Mr. Nixon: That is what Brazil found. That is what Argentina found. The government can borrow all it wants.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The other point is that the member suggested that Hydro needed to borrow so much that it not only went to the American market, but borrowed Canada pension plan moneys. The situation is quite different. We contracted some borrowing for Ontario Hydro through the province from CPP because,

happily, the affairs—I say this seriously—were so well managed in two years—

Mr. Nixon: Why is that quite different from what I said?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: —that the CPP moneys available to the province were greater than the province was borrowing on its own account. CPP contributions are available through borrowing to the provinces in the same amount that the money is put in. The money was available, and we ran our affairs so well that the Treasurer did not need to borrow as much money as was available from CPP.

The member will agree with me that if we need to borrow any money, it is CPP money that should be borrowed for a variety of reasons. Therefore, rather than have Hydro go for other moneys more expensively outside the country, we chose to use our unused capacity to borrow from CPP.

Mr. Nixon: That is just what I said. Ontario Hydro is enlarging its share of the credit pie.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In that case, the member would criticize Hydro. Every time we do a good job here of reducing our deficit, that is exactly what happens. We did not increase our deficit commensurate with CCP contributions; therefore, the Hydro borrowing relative to ours may have increased, but that does not indicate Hydro is overspending at all.

It would be unfair to say that because we have had some success here, Hydro has not had success. We have totally different circumstances. We were able to do things here so that its borrowing could take up some of the CPP borrowing we could not take.

As Treasurer, I would be delighted if we could bring down our deficits to the point where there would be even more CPP money available for Hydro. The only point I wanted to make juxtaposed with the member's remarks was that implicit in those remarks, and I want to be fair, was the suggestion that Hydro was borrowing so much that it had tapped its American capacity and had to go into CPP moneys.

Mr. Nixon: The government did not want to borrow any more New York money.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is not the case at all.

Mr. Nixon: That is what I say and that is what I believe.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: All that money could have been borrowed in New York. There was Canadian money available which was Ontario's right to borrow first. It is a preferential rate as

against the American price, so obviously we borrowed here instead of the money that was equally available.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, if you will permit me, the point is the government is spending this money on Hydro, which is unnecessary, rather than on the social capital of the province, which is rapidly running downhill. The Treasurer calls it good management; we say it is bad management.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As the member is obliged to. I would only say that—

Mr. Nixon: The Treasurer is obliged to say the opposite. He should be a little more direct about this.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member wants to argue that our social capital has run down, we could have a dandy discussion on that.

Mr. Nixon: We are 10th out of 10 in post-secondary education. Let us start there.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We can start with post-secondary education, and that does not give anywhere near a full picture of whether our contributions to post-secondary are commensurate with the other provinces, as the member well knows.

Mr. Nixon: No. It just means the government is 10th out of 10.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It does not. The point I am making is it does not mean we are 10th out of 10.

Mr. Kerrio: The minister should look at the opportunity he has when the province is 10th out of 10. There is no way to go but up.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is apples and oranges; those figures are not any good. They are pretty high. One cannot extrapolate from our discussion on Hydro and then take a quantum leap over to say that, because of Hydro's borrowing, our social capital is being run down.

Mr. Nixon: Is that your deputy, by the way?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, this is my new deputy minister.

Mr. Nixon: I am very glad to meet him.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member will get to know him more from that side. He is a very fine deputy.

Mr. Nixon: He is now writing the minister's jokes. Why does the Treasurer laugh when he looks at what the deputy minister wrote?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They were very accurate figures, not ones I wanted to use, but very accurate.

Mr. Nixon: So it is ninth out of 10.

Mr. McClellan: I think the minister should use them.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Someone no doubt will.

Mr. McClellan: Maybe a page could bring them over.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member has raised his hero Pierre Elliott Trudeau. It is ironic he would be mentioning Trudeau as well as our credit rating and investment of social capital, particularly in education, when it was his hero who capped our post-secondary payments at six and five.

Mr. Nixon: My hero pays half the cost of post-secondary education, half the cost of something that is totally the provincial government's responsibility.

5:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Getting rid of the revenue guarantee cost us \$300 million. If one were to accept the member's proposition that colleges and universities and post-secondary education are suffering at all, I know the member would want to attribute at least part of that blame to his hero, who dramatically cut back on the very transfers that were designated for those uses.

I have to go back to Ontario Hydro, just to be fair to the new chairman, and report it is not my information that he is at all shaky or having difficulty getting his hands on things over there. I can report that with some accuracy. As I said at the going-away party we had for him last week, I have been speaking to him at least as much since he left as when he was my deputy. I am hearing from him on a regular basis.

Mr. Nixon: I will bet the minister is. If he gets digging around over there, he will want to come back.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It seems to me he has a very firm grasp on the situation. By the way, he seemed to have that when he was Deputy Treasurer. He was one of those who indicated to me that it would not be an oppressive measure to ask Hydro to reduce its borrowing by \$200 million. That is a point I intend to remind him of at a later time. That is why I wanted to get it on the record.

Mr. Nixon: He knew \$200 million would not scare them much.

Mr. Kerrio: When Darcy gave a \$5-billion shot, he really pulled out a lever.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is because that money came out that there is not that much left to come out now.

On the tobacco tax, the member quite properly points out that I had expressed some concern about the tax-on-tax situation. We are continuing to look at that. I know he will acknowledge, as did so many of his constituents, that we did not increase the tobacco tax as so many people had—

Mr. Nixon: No, but the revenue increased by \$50 million.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The fact that the revenue increased did not mean there was a tax increase. That is like saying there is a retail sales tax increase when automobiles go up in price this year. One just cannot argue that there was a tax increase.

To be fair, the farming community in the riding of Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and the great riding of Oxford expressed appreciation and acknowledgement—at least in Oxford through their very fine member—for the fact that we did not increase the tobacco tax. It would have been a difficult year for the farmers had we done that. I am happy the representations made to me by my colleagues the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven), the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil) and others brought that circumstance to our attention.

Mr. Kerrio: So did the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) and the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: And the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk did as well.

Mr. Nixon: Do not worry about me.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I was not. Chief Staats will look after both of us, no doubt.

It has also been acknowledged that part of that was due to my determination in the last budget to avoid tax increases of any nature if possible. I hope that will be possible in the future. The tax-on-tax situation is one that both governments have to review. The measures taken by the federal government to relieve some of that pressure with regard to how they calculate their portion has been of assistance as well.

The final thing I would like to raise is the question of the brain drain. While I have not read the book, I was interested to hear the member's comments on it. I must admit I first thought it was what had happened to his caucus in the past six months. Having realized that would be inappropriate in this circumstance, I only want to say I will read that book.

I have discussed those issues at some length with my colleague the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Let me say quite clearly that, to be fair, we have increased our post-secondary funding well above the rate of inflation this year, as I indicated during question period today. Inflation is now at about 3.9 per cent. Our post-secondary transfers are at least 6.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent respectively.

Mr. Nixon: Hydro rates are going up by 8.6 per cent.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am not sure what relevance that has. In any case, post-secondary funding is running at double the rate of inflation this year, which is a significant increase.

I do not know what the premise of The Great Brain Robbery is, whether it talks about equipment, funding, building, courses and curricula, wages and salaries, working conditions and all those—I do not know, and I will read the book—but the point I would like to make is that those kinds of increases, and I must be quite open and direct with the member, could go a long way, with inflation at 3.8 per cent, to remedying some of the research, accommodation and other pressures that I hear from faculties themselves are real problems at those institutions. In my view, they are not necessarily entirely right on those issues, but I said I hear from faculty members that those are pressures.

With inflation at 3.8 per cent, I hope those transfers running at 7.5 per cent will largely end up where they ought to end up, which is in those institutions, as opposed to going almost automatically to wage increases in excess of five per cent, let alone in excess of 3.8 per cent.

For my part, providing more funding to post-secondary education, as we have this year, is important. As Treasurer, I can stand and say that in the budget policy brought in by this government, we showed that quite clearly both in the transfers, double the rate of inflation, and in terms of specific measures in the budget.

Many of the economic policy initiatives we introduced in the budget were focused right on universities, enterprise centres, innovation centres, research funds and the like. All those efforts will be lost if those extra funds end up not in the institutions but in faculty salaries, when those same faculties are telling us almost daily of the financial needs of their institutions.

While I acknowledge the strains and pressures, I will take this opportunity to ask the members of the House to join us in saying quite directly and clearly to faculty members and staff of those institutions that seven, eight, nine, 12 or

18 per cent increases in salaries and wages surely cannot be the major priority for those institutions that need the extra dollars for the institutions themselves.

I remind all of them that inflation is running at 3.8 per cent. That is something they have to take cognizance of and reflect it in good faith during what some of them see as a year, post Bill 179 and Bill 111, when they might want to take larger increases than we funded for the universities and colleges. We funded them, of course, for five per cent.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back with the Treasurer for a few minutes to the discussion that was going on a little earlier about Ontario Hydro.

I do not know whether the Treasurer realizes just how silly the scenario he set out for us sounded. He stood in his place and talked about 1976, when he was on the select committee. Ontario Hydro people were projecting demand increases of seven per cent; they were the most wrong. People from the Sierra Club came in and said they were not sure of the figure; they were the most right in terms of reality, even though they were the least believed at that point. Now the Treasurer is asking us to believe we should believe those who were most wrong in terms of the future.

5:30 p.m.

The Treasurer talks about the lead time that is necessary to bring a plant like Darlington on stream and the necessity of completing that plant anyway. The Treasurer should be aware that there is already more than the capacity of Darlington sitting idle in this province. He should be aware that to get the power from the last two units at Bruce nuclear out to the place in the province where it is said to be needed, it is going to cost Hydro \$1 billion just for the transmission lines. There is already idle capacity sitting in the area of the province where it is said we will need that power.

The \$1 billion is just for the transmission lines, forgetting about the last two units at Bruce and forgetting about building Darlington and all the lines it is talking about in eastern Ontario. The \$1 billion for the southwestern Ontario transmission line alone would put scrubbers on facilities that are now sitting idle because, by the government's own claim, they produce acid emissions. The moneys for that line alone would put scrubbers on four units that are currently sitting idle in this province or are being used as backup in some instances.

The kind of economic scenario the government is setting out for us is that it is telling us to believe the proponent that has been most wrong. It is telling us that we need the capacity Darlington will provide when we already have more capacity than that sitting idle, in addition to a 50 per cent surplus.

I am not going to get into an argument with the Treasurer about whether Ontario Hydro's borrowing is affecting his overall ability to borrow. That is not the discussion I want to have here. The discussion I want to have is about the economic sanity of the whole expansion program of Ontario Hydro.

He has told us the Sierra Club was the most right in terms of predictions a decade ago. Why is it that we are now totally ignoring groups such as the Sierra Club, which have been the most right? Does the Treasurer know what the Sierra Club would be saying about Ontario Hydro's present expansion program and whether it is necessary? It would tell him it was not necessary. Some of us do listen to those groups from time to time.

We are in an expansion program at Ontario Hydro where, whether or not the Treasurer is prepared to say that Hydro's borrowing is affecting the government's ability to borrow—that is not the crucial question as I see it—it is creating a debt load in this province that the residents of this province are going to have to carry. I do not think the Treasurer can find any way around that.

The debt load that Hydro is currently incurring is a debt load that the residents of this province will have to carry. Hydro happens to be a commodity that almost everybody is dependent on. They have to pay their Hydro bills, and ultimately this debt load is going to be reflected in those Hydro bills. The whole program that is currently being undertaken is totally unnecessary, as my colleague the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk said.

The scenario the Treasurer sets out about lead time is all very well, good and true. It does take 13, 14 or maybe even 15 years to bring a facility on stream, but we have capacity sitting idle, capacity which, for much fewer dollars, we could be retrofitting to deal with the potential for future need. In the broadest stretch of my imagination, I cannot conceive how the approach currently being taken can be classed in any sense of the word as economically sane.

If the roadbuilding programs in this province were as outlandish as Hydro's approach to expansion, the government would have public interest groups all across the province opposing

its highway construction. However, it does not because it is not out of whack. I say to the Treasurer that when he gets into a situation where he finds groups from all over the place opposing the massive, unnecessary expansion Ontario Hydro is involved in, it is time for him to sit down and think about why all those groups are popping up in opposition, at rate hearings, at hearings around plant construction and at all the rest of the things we have seen going on.

If and when one finds that kind of opposition developing, it is not opposition that is coming from nowhere. Sure, some of the opposition that is involved out there is related to the nuclear program of Ontario Hydro because some of it is from groups that oppose the nuclear option, period. But a lot of the opposition that has evolved around Hydro has nothing to do with the question of whether it is nuclear or not nuclear; that opposition would be there whether it was coal-fired, oil-fired or water plants that the government was spending money on when we do not need them.

It is time for the minister, instead of steadfastly and stubbornly defending Ontario Hydro's progress, to think back to the select committee he sat on, to think back to the way this government protested against the need to mothball the heavy water plants at Bruce right up until a week before Hydro, on its own volition, finally got up and announced the mothballing of, I believe, Bruce D.

I think the Treasurer needs to respond to some of the economic realities that are inherent in Hydro's whole program.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, let us first just get the old select committee-Sierra Club scenario into some perspective. It is very nice to say that the Sierra Club was the most right of the groups offering a view.

Mr. Nixon: Most correct.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: "Most correct" is what he means; that is right. But even the Sierra Club, I would think, would acknowledge that in 1976 it did not have prior knowledge of the oil crisis that would be created by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries in 1978. Even the Sierra Club did not anticipate the lineups at the gasoline pumps in the United States in 1978 and 1979. All of that had a tremendous rebound impact, not only on gasoline consumption but also on the whole energy conservation field.

The Sierra Club, as well informed as it is, did not understand totally the impact of those events or of the economic recession that befell us in 1981-82. To be fair, it was the most correct, but a

set of circumstances it did not anticipate made it correct. The same variables, working out in an equally unpredictable way, could have made it the most wrong. One should not presume that the Sierra Club, any more than, for example, the Conference Board of Canada, which itself once in a while turns out to be correct—

Mr. Nixon: Now the Treasurer is backtracking, covering his \$100,000.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: One should not presume from the fact that it happens to be right on an occasion or most correct on a certain event that it has any better insight or any better judgement than anyone else.

Mr. Charlton: I was not suggesting that. I was just suggesting that the minister again is totally ignoring groups like that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would argue fairly strongly that the processes we have set up in Ontario, such as the Ontario Energy Board rate hearings, select committees—the member will remember them—and estimates here are all opportunities that have been provided both by this assembly and by this government to allow those groups to have a great deal of scope and input into the system.

The member opposite may not agree with their results, and I respect that. Indeed, I do not mind saying that as a member of this government I have had occasion not always to agree with some decisions handed out by courts and by administrative tribunals of all types. But the fact is that the way you organize society and government is to allow an important forum to be set up for that kind of debate, to make sure there is good access to it and to appoint competent people to it.

Notwithstanding the suggestions I hear across the floor from time to time, I have rarely heard suggestions that the people appointed to things such as the energy board are not competent people. Some may have preferred that they belong to different political parties, but no one has really questioned their competence or ability; so I would argue that those groups are not ignored in the system.

5:40 p.m.

The select committees here call all those groups, and a lot of time is taken. The Ontario Energy Board rate hearings are held annually. Every time a transmission line goes in, as we have found recently, the courts will protect the system we on this side of the House have set up to make sure there is full and complete input from anyone who can be said to be even remotely

affected by a transmission line. I guess I would argue that, far from neglecting or ignoring those groups, there are extraordinary steps taken in this jurisdiction to make sure those groups get their say.

Mr. Charlton: That is only if one assumes that input happens in the first place.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is a fair premise. I was just going to say that one can debate—

Mr. Charlton: If the government listened to those groups a little bit in advance, perhaps we would not have had to waste all the money the government has wasted on the transmission line hearings.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My friend will find that if we had listened to those groups invariably—and this is not manufactured or dreamed up by me—then American Motors Corp., General Motors and Honda would not be putting in \$2 billion worth of auto investment. If we slavishly followed those groups, we would simply have a shortage of electrical energy.

Mr. Charlton: None of them has ever suggested that. Hydro itself contends that we have to run at about a 25 per cent surplus to run the system. Nobody disputes that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member can debate those issues with the Minister of Energy. The only point I am making is that my friend was talking about which groups we follow and which advice we take, and I just point out there would be a gross error made if we slavishly followed the advice of the groups the member suggested we follow.

In point of fact, I would argue that the system set up here, which sends these matters to things such as rate hearings and has them analysed in this House, constitutes important procedures because it does not allow anyone to be a slave to either one of those groups. These matters are under extreme scrutiny here. I would not want members to think—

Mr. Charlton: What will the Treasurer's response be when Hydro, of its own volition, announces a postponement of Darlington?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member can ask that question in a minute. Let me just make the point, and I say this most sincerely, that anyone who believes that people on this side of the House do not pay attention to those groups really does underestimate us. We do pay attention to those groups. We have learned a lot from those groups. This member has learned a lot from those groups.

Mr. Nixon: Stop the expressway then. The member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) says he is thinking about it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is right. That is a good example.

I can say quite clearly that this member learned a great deal on that select committee over the course of a year. It was very valuable. I learned far more than if I had just been reading Hydro documents or government documents. The groups such as Sierra Club, Energy Probe and others that came in offered a great deal of information that all members of that committee would not have had but for that process, and I do not mind saying that. We are open to learning all of that and hearing all of that. They become a very important part of the process, and I for one would defend the processes we have in place here to allow that sort of input.

I am really agreeing with the member in the sense of saying that no set of forecasters and no group of experts should be followed slavishly, whether from Hydro or the Sierra Club. They always have to be analysed critically both by elected officials and in forums such as the Ontario Energy Board as well as, when it comes to transmission lines and all those kinds of hearings, representatives of the public.

The member talks about the debt load and says we are allowing Hydro to run up debt loads which the public cannot sustain. I would remind—

Mr. Charlton: I did not say anything about the public sustaining them. What I said was that they were going to be paying off unnecessary debts.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: To put it in some perspective as against other jurisdictions, obviously a portion of the Hydro rates that are being paid covers interest payments on the accrued debt, and that would be the case in all jurisdictions. Therefore, when one looks at the Hydro rates in this province and measures them against the rates being paid in other jurisdictions, it is not a complete measure, but it is some measure of the amount of debt load that is being carried by the current ratepayers to support the system, whether it is overbuilt, underbuilt or whatever.

I think members will find it is interesting that Ontario Hydro rates remain quite low in comparison with those of other utilities across North America, and that includes, interestingly enough, utilities that do not have the excess capacity Hydro has. It means even those jurisdictions that have erred on the low side and have not built enough, let alone excess, capacity, have been managing their affairs in such a way that they cannot even match Hydro's record in terms of the cost of running the system, where Hydro has built excess capacity. I argue very

sincerely that is a great testimony to Hydro's competence, excellence and management, given the variables it faces and given its shortcomings, and there are some.

Finally, the member should take up with the Minister of Energy the whole question of money being spent on transmission lines versus being put into scrubbers on plants. That is a very important point and I suspect he will find a fundamental difference between the views put forward by the member and those of my very fine colleague the Minister of Energy. There is nothing I can add to that.

Mr. Nixon: There are one or two specific questions on the first vote I want to put to the minister while we have a chance, as well as a more general matter. I am looking at page 22 on that foldout he provided. Under the main office vote there is an additional \$106,000. Under "Details," it says, "Under provision 1983-84." Can he tell me what that additional \$106,000 is for?

In the same list, there is something called, "Transferred from another branch," which lists for personnel services \$121,000 and for analysis and planning \$102,000. As well, there is a \$51,000 addition for services in the information field. Is the minister beefing that up even further?

Are these the kinds of questions we should not bother the minister with?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. As the member knows, I like to handle these things, but I like to be quite precise in the information I offer. It will take a moment until the precise information gets here from my staff.

Mr. Nixon: While the minister is waiting for that, it is page 22 in the paragraph down at the bottom.

I also wanted to ask the minister something that really comes in a later vote, Mr. Chairman, if you would prefer it dealt with then. It has to do with the \$100,000 we are paying for the Conference Board of Canada's information. We have some research available to us too. Of course, we do not have nearly the quantity, although I think the quality is good, that is available to the minister.

I think we would agree the Conference Board's forecast is slightly pessimistic. Still, it is interesting to note that Michael Wilson has warned that growth will fall dramatically in 1985 and will have a significant impact on employment. He may be talking about lesser provinces, but I am concerned that the Treasurer, who is supposed to be reliable in these matters and has yet to be proved unreliable, still has that sort of

booster approach when he tells the press that everything is fine.

It is true the Conference Board ranked Ontario as number one in economic development related to unemployment for 1984, but in 1985 the Conference Board rates us as projected number 10. That may account for the reason the minister is already taking swift kicks at them every time they stand still. For the Conference Board to rate Ontario's performance projected into the next year as 10 out of 10, after rating it as one out of 10, first among the provinces, is very serious indeed.

Another group we deal with in detail is one the minister will be aware of. It is called Informetrica Ltd. Does he know about them?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Does he? So do I. They rated Ontario not number one out of 10 this year, but fourth out of 10. That is in the rate of growth compared with the unemployment rate and general overall assessment. But, when they look at 1985, Informetrica Ltd., which the Treasurer does not kick every time it stands still, rates us eight out of 10 by projections.

The statistics available give us the projections from all sorts of sources. Some of them, no doubt, are better than others and as a simple farm boy I am not in a position to rate them. But such sources as Bank of Montreal, Burns Fry Ltd., Chase Econometrics Canada, Data Resources of Canada, McLeod Young Weir Ltd., Nesbitt, Thomson Bongard Inc., Royal Bank of Canada, Wood Gundy, Woods Gordon and so on, all of their projections, while they may be somewhat more optimistic than the Conference Board of Canada, certainly do not reflect the glassy-eyed optimism that the Treasurer treats us to every time he looks past January 27.

I am telling him, speaking on behalf of my electorate, I am concerned about his foresight. I wonder what the minister is going to do to relieve the concern I feel and that is also expressed by these multitudinous, independent resource concerns that also indicate Ontario may very well be 10 out of 10 in 1985 and not be moving forward dramatically as the Treasurer indicates. After all, the Treasurer just has a new deputy and a couple of people over there who have as yet to find page 22.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me make a couple of points. I cannot help noticing that every election year the Conference Board of Canada makes us 10 out of 10. They did in—

Mr. Nixon: Will you go for eight out of 10?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The last year we were 10 out of 10 was 1981 and things will no doubt work out just as well this year.

I think in terms of next year, and I want to make this point as clearly as possible, there are a couple of things to remember. First, when the federal minister says things like, "growth will fall dramatically," this has been an extraordinary year. The member has acknowledged my foresight was not as optimistic as even I thought it might be and that it will end up around five per cent.

When we look at the growth rates from 1979 to 1983, the average annual growth rate in Ontario was 0.8 per cent. This year we are having five per cent growth. That is really a staggering increase and far better than most people predicted.

What does that mean? It means this year we are far and away leading the rest of Canada. It also means, when the federal minister says growth will fall dramatically next year, that it can go back to more traditional levels which would be in the two, three and 3.5 range and still be very steady, secure growth. In fact, in my prebudget statement and in several public statements, I have indicated I think the best course for this province is steady, predictable growth over a period of years. By that, I mean in the two to four per cent range.

We could have what people would call growth fall dramatically below five per cent, in the two to four per cent range, and not have problems of any great nature. The reason is when people hear that growth will fall dramatically, they think there is going to be a recession next year or there is going to be negative growth, which we have seen, but that is not at all what I think the federal minister is saying. I do not even think the Conference Board of Canada is saying it will be negative in Ontario next year. What it is saying is that growth will not be as strong as this year and that is not only understandable but predictable.

Mr. Nixon: They say real growth will be minus one.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They are, I can say with some confidence, wrong.

Mr. Nixon: I hope so. You know that, do you?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Have I let the member down before? He said that in May when I predicted 4.7 per cent and it turned out to be five.

Mr. Nixon: I did not say anything.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: His leader did. He said there was no chance we would hit 4.7 per cent.

That is the first point I would like to make. People should understand clearly that next year's growth will not be five per cent. With all the public attention and fixation on economic indicators and figures, people should not think that because the rate of growth next year will be less than this year it indicates economic slowdown. It means there will be continuing growth. It will be at more predictable levels and in a quite safe range of two to four per cent. If we hit that target, we will be very happy.

Mr. Nixon: You have 11 per cent unemployment.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We have 9.5 per cent unemployment.

Mr. Nixon: It is projected for 11 per cent next year.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not project that.

Mr. McClellan: What do you project?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We will make our predictions later in the year when we are more certain of them.

When we have a recovery that is quicker than those of the other provinces, as we have with five per cent growth this year, then in measuring next year I can say with some confidence that I do not think we will be 10 out of 10 in growth. The others have not received anywhere near the growth we have this year and they start on much lower bases.

They are just now coming out of the recession. They have not had nearly as much advantage and success as we have had. The other provinces, particularly those with smaller economies such as Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick, could have growth rates well in excess of the two to four per cent range next year. I say clearly that I hope they do. They need it. They ought to have it. It is extremely unfortunate they did not have it this year.

To understand what we are talking about, the fact that next year those provinces will begin to share the great recovery we have had this year should not be taken to mean there will be any problem with our recovery next year. If we are 10 out of 10 next year in percentage growth, as long as our growth is in the two to four per cent range, and as long as the rest of Canada is sharing well in our economic recovery, there is no reason for the Treasurer of Ontario or any member of this House to be worried that other provinces are beginning to share equally in the recovery we have experienced this year.

Mr. Nixon: Are you now projecting two to four per cent?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I could not say that, and I will not be saying that perhaps until our prebudget statement this fall. If we end up in that range, it will be quite a good performance.

Mr. Nixon: I do not know whether you understood my question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: What figure did the member offer on page 22?

Mr. Nixon: On page 22, under main office down near the bottom there is an additional \$106,000 justified only by the words "Under provision 1983-84." A decision must have been taken then that cost us \$106,000.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I stand to be corrected on this. We will check it for the member. As I glance at our briefing notes—

Mr. Nixon: Do you want to let it go until Friday when we come back?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I think that is reflected in the increase in the prebudget consultation process, plus the addition of Mr. Jackman who joined us and staffing up for him. He has come from the Ministry of Health and has proved to be quite valuable. I think that largely accounts for that.

Mr. Nixon: What is the additional \$51,000 under information services?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I think that is accounted for by our beefed-up, prebudget consultation process where we took the prebudget process outside Toronto to several locations. That required staffing and some equipment. We got to 10 communities. I can only offer this to my successor if I am not in this ministry next spring that, if anything, those 10 visits to 10 communities proved to be extremely valuable, some would argue even more valuable than many of the meetings we held in our boardroom here.

Mr. Nixon: Valuable for what?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Valuable in terms of ideas coming from those communities and giving those communities—

Mr. Nixon: Not valuable as in nice dinner parties?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: None whatever.

Mr. Nixon: "Transfer from another branch, \$121,000 and \$102,000." I will get to that Friday.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported progress.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before moving the adjournment of the House, in indicating last

Thursday the business of the House for this week, I indicated we would deal tomorrow evening with the Public Libraries Act, Bill 93, and then with Bill 77 in committee of the whole. I am informed Bill 77 is not reprinted, so we cannot deal with it.

I am going to suggest that we deal with Bill 89 and Bill 91 after we complete Bill 93 tomorrow evening.

The House adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Grossman, Hon. L. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Kerrio, V. G., Acting Chairman (Niagara Falls L)
Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of Health (Kingston and the Islands PC)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights PC)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for Justice (London South PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)



No. 104

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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, October 30, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 30, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

MEMBER'S HEALTH

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I am sure all members of the House will want to join with me in wishing a very speedy recovery to our friend and colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) who, we read and hear, is not in the best of health today. I hope the leader of the New Democratic Party will convey, at least on our behalf, to our good friend the very senior member for Riverdale our wishes for a full and very speedy recovery from whatever current ailment he labours under.

[Later]

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to return to an earlier point by the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) when we were discussing the recent illness of our colleague the member for Riverdale. We on this side of the House would like the third party to convey to the member our wishes for a speedy recovery, and we look forward to seeing him in the House.

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a very important point of privilege. You will recall that in this House in the past few days we have had discussions with respect to the credit rating of this province and the discussions with Standard and Poor's between the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and the Premier (Mr. Davis), and the various agencies from Wall Street.

You will be aware, sir, of the comments of the Treasurer in this House. He was asked some very specific questions with respect to the nature of those discussions and/or negotiations. I could quote them to you at length; they are a matter of record. He said: "It is not accurate to say that we suddenly learned the credit rating was in danger. It is not accurate to say I called the Premier and said, 'Drop everything and rush down here.'"

He went on to give the impression that it was a routine set of discussions that were going on; it was not in the nature of an appeal, and he gave no indication that the credit rating had been downgraded in any way. If you choose, sir, I could

read his language, but very clearly that is the impression he conveyed.

Very shortly thereafter, outside this House, the Premier used very different language and I suggest, sir, gave different facts about the identical set of circumstances. He would not say it was a routine discussion. In fact, he referred to an "appeal tribunal."

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Peterson: I would like to finish this; if I may, before you make a judgement. This is a very important issue. It affects not only millions of dollars but also the integrity of this province.

Mr. Speaker: I have not heard a point of privilege.

Mr. Peterson: You will hear it if you give just me a moment.

Mr. Speaker: If you will develop the point of privilege.

Mr. Peterson: I will do that, sir, if you will not interrupt.

Our staff, in discussion with one Marie Cavanaugh of Standard and Poor's this morning, was told there would not be an appeal if there had not been a prior downgrading. The Premier referred to this appeal in his own remarks, but it was denied in this House by the Treasurer.

I say to you, sir, only one of them can be telling the truth, and in this case we run the risk of a very serious misrepresentation of the facts. Because the stakes are so enormous, the Speaker has an obligation to bring those people before the House and to determine who is telling the truth.

Mr. Speaker: That was not a point of privilege. It is not the duty of the Speaker, nor is there any obligation on his part, to make a judgement on who is responsible for saying what. As you know, and as I have said many times, you can rise to correct the record as regards statements you have made yourself. Statements made by other people are their responsibility and they will be judged accordingly. I have no authority to make any judgement on that matter.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak on that point, if I may.

Mr. Rae: On a related point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order. May I listen to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk very briefly. I have ruled that was not a point of privilege—

Mr. Rae: I was on my feet and I have the floor—

Mr. Nixon: This is on the first point. Let us dispose of this one, Mr. Speaker, if we may—

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, what is this?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I will recognize the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk.

Mr. Nixon: There is a well-known concept that all members of cabinet should accept the same line of policy. In this instance, the Premier and the Treasurer have diverged. How are we as honourable members supposed to get straight information in a situation like this?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I point out again that is not my obligation, nor do I have any influence over government. I am here as a representative of all members. I do not have any specific influence or authority to deal with specific members.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Perhaps you can help us. How are we to ask the government questions when the Premier chose to make a statement outside the House yesterday, and he has not been in this Legislature for question period since he announced he was retiring as Premier? How in the name of goodness are we going to get to the bottom of this? What he has said is substantially different from the answer—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat. Again, you are developing a similar point. It is not my responsibility to guarantee attendance in this House; I cannot guarantee it for you or anybody else.

Mr. Laughren: Why do we not adjourn?

Mr. Rae: What are we supposed to do if they do not come here day after day and choose when to be here and when not to be here?

Mr. Speaker: It is not my responsibility to guarantee attendance.

POLISH DISSIDENT

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to say a few words concerning the tragic case of the Reverend Jerzy Popieluszko of Poland.

It takes a great deal of raw courage to defy a totalitarian system, particularly when that defiance could lead to severe persecution or even death. Yet without those men and women who

are ready to lay down their lives in the pursuit of justice, citizens living under these regimes would have no hope for a brighter future.

Reverend Jerzy Popieluszko is one of those rare individuals who has the courage to live by his convictions, no matter what the cost. One of Solidarity's strongest supporters, the reverend has steadfastly stood against the abuse of the Polish system and in so doing he has given the Polish people a symbol of strength and courage that will not soon be forgotten. His death will mark the first time that a priest has been martyred by the communist system for political motives.

I speak for all of my colleagues in the Legislature when I say my heart goes out to the Polish people during this time of terrible tragedy.

Mr. Ruprecht: Mr. Speaker, I ask the members of this House to join in expressing horror and outrage at the kidnapping and possible slaying of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, the pro-Solidarity Polish priest. We call on all freedom-loving people in Canada and throughout the world to call to account the government in Poland which has once again shown its contempt for the Helsinki agreement and total disregard for human and civil rights.

Father Jerzy Popieluszko has demonstrated, time and again, his personal courage and total commitment to the cause of freedom, particularly for those who are living behind the Iron Curtain. This is based on his deep religious belief.

History has taught us that to stay silent while the enemies of freedom and human rights perpetrate acts of evil and crimes against humanity is to do a dangerous thing. Surely we have learned that every time we fail to take a stand, we actually condone what is done by the forces of dictatorship in the world.

2:10 p.m.

Yesterday we learned that a police captain and a lieutenant of the enforcement arm of this dictatorship have admitted to the most dastardly deed of murdering this priest and dumping his body into the Vistula. It is unlikely that such an act could be committed without the knowledge of the senior levels of this regime.

In my own conversation with Lech Walesa two months before marshal law was imposed, he intimated that even the inner circles of the Solidarity movement were infiltrated by agents of this regime and that not much happens without the regime's full knowledge.

The government of Canada must be urged to demand an explanation of this latest incident in the ongoing attempts to subjugate the Polish

people. Polish Canadians, indeed all Canadians, I believe, would want our government to be in the forefront of the world's outcry on behalf of Father Jerzy Popieluszko. I entreat the members of the Ontario Legislature to send a strong message to Ottawa in this connection.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, allow me to introduce—

Mr. McClellan: Do we still have rotation here?

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry; the member for York South.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, you were looking in the other direction, if I may say so. I was standing—

Mr. Speaker: I thought I had scanned the chamber. However, the member for York South.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I think it is clear that all members of this House share the anger and frustration of all members of the Polish community in Canada, and of the Polish nation, at the disappearance of the priest who has spoken up on behalf of Solidarity.

Many of us saw the demonstration last night in front of the Polish consulate and felt the anger, frustration, concern and emotion of the community that this kind of persecution would be allowed to take place and be condoned by the Polish authorities.

It would be very appropriate if this House expressed, in a communal way and on a nonpartisan basis, its concern and its deep feeling for the violations of human rights and of human life itself that are taking place in Poland. We share with the community its deep sense of grief and anger at what has been taking place.

VISITORS

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, in sharing the concern expressed by all three members, I wish to recognize, in the public gallery today, those who are fortunate to be with us, a group of 30 political refugees from Poland of Ukrainian origin who represent the big group of 118 who escaped in a mass escape from Poland this summer.

The first wave is present and watching parliamentary democracy at its best for the first time in their lives. We welcome them to this province and we express our welcome and our thanks to the federal government, which sponsored their arrival. They have chosen this province to be their new home. I hope we will continue to assist them when they are all here.

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: May I ask for the Speaker's assistance? In view of what has transpired with the questions raised by the leader of the official opposition and by my leader with respect to who is telling the truth in this matter, would the Speaker recess the House until either the Premier or the Treasurer is prepared to come in here and tell us who is telling the truth and who is not?

Mr. Speaker: As I have said before, I do not have any authority to that.

Mr. Rae: You certainly do. You do it all the time.

Mr. Speaker: No, I do not do it all the time, and those people who choose not to attend do so because of their own particular, personal decisions.

Mr. Martel: You can have grave disorder if you want it.

Mr. Laughren: Do you want grave disorder?

Mr. Speaker: I am not responsible for attendance in the House, on any side of the House.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have seen you recess the House for a variety of reasons, and this is probably the keystone of Tory fiscal management of the province. If we cannot get answers here and if everything is being answered outside the House, it seems to me the House cannot carry on. If you want a little bit of grave disorder that would allow you to recess the House, we could provide a little bit of grave disorder.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I want to reply, because the member for Sudbury East knows full well that I cannot demand the attendance of anybody in this House on any side of the House.

Mr. Martel: We will wait. Recess the House.

Mr. Speaker: And if people choose to make announcements outside this House, that is their prerogative. There is nothing I can do to stop it.

Mr. Martel: What is your prerogative then, and what is our prerogative?

Mr. Speaker: You know what your prerogatives are as well as I do. I am not going to argue the point with you. Will you please resume your seat.

Mr. Rae: It makes a mockery of the whole process if they are not even prepared to come here on this day of all days.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order: It is clear that the Leader of the Opposition

(Mr. Peterson) and his colleagues, as well as the leader of the New Democratic Party (Mr. Rae) and his colleagues, feel very strongly that on a critical and important matter of public policy this House has not been truthfully dealt with. There is a very serious divergence of public statement as between the Premier and the Treasurer of what took place in New York late in the summer of 1984.

Surely this House can proceed only if we are all honourable members and if it is the truth and nothing but the truth that we receive in here. It concerns all of us very much that the Treasurer and the Premier are at complete odds on that question. At the very least it seems to me that the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) or someone over there would want to bring forward this afternoon one or both of those gentlemen, to clear the air and to set to rest what has happened here and what the truth is.

In my view, there is a *prima facie* case that this House has been misled. In the absence of an undertaking by the Deputy Premier or by someone over there to bring those honourable gentlemen here and to clear up this matter, I do not see that this House has any choice but to adjourn until the truth is arrived at on this very critical and timely question.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Renfrew North does indeed make a good point that all members are considered to be honourable members and to that extent are treated as such.

People make statements outside this House as well as inside this House. I cannot be a judge of the veracity of those statements. I do not think you would want to put the Speaker, even if I had the authority, in the position of making a judgement. But I do not have that authority.

Mr. Conway: On that point, Mr. Speaker: I recognize the very great difficulty in which you find yourself, and I do not want to add to that difficulty, but it seems to me the House as a whole has a greater difficulty.

The leadership of this administration is at direct odds on a critical and timely question of public policy, and on this date neither of the honourable gentlemen, neither the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) nor the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), has arrived and no one over there is prepared to give an undertaking that either of those gentlemen will come to clear the air and to make sure there is one consistent truth on this question.

In the absence of an undertaking from the chief government whip or from the Deputy Premier to

produce either of those gentlemen, I must move the adjournment of this House.

Mr. Speaker: I must point out to the honourable member, and I am not sure whether he is aware of this procedure, that his motion for adjournment is out of order at this time.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order: Let me reiterate that this matter can be easily addressed and resolved if someone from the Treasury benches will get up in his or her place and give the House an undertaking that either the Premier or the Treasurer will arrive in this chamber at the earliest opportunity this afternoon to clear up a very worrisome divergence of reference on this question. It seems to me we cannot proceed if the air is not cleared.

No government and no assembly that is truly democratic or responsible can proceed in the presence of this kind of divergence. Someone is not telling the truth. Under the current situation, that someone must either be the Premier or the Treasurer. I believe those people to be honourable gentlemen. I want the opportunity for either or both of those gentlemen to come into this House and clear the air on a critical and timely question of public policy. In the absence of that, I do not know how we can proceed to any other business.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I just make the suggestion to the honourable member that when those members do appear, he may put a question to them at the appropriate time.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, if you are going to declare this cannot be done, then I have no alternative but to challenge your ruling that there cannot be a recess until such time—

Mr. Speaker: With all respect, it is not a ruling. It is in the standing orders.

Mr. Martel: I will challenge your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: It is not a ruling.

Mr. Martel: It is a ruling and I challenge it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would indicate to you that we have a preliminary indication from the other side that neither the first minister nor the Treasurer is going to be in the House this afternoon. If we are wrongly informed, please so indicate.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would point out to the honourable member that he has spoken four times. He is completely out of order.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Four times too many.

Mr. Breaugh: This is getting pretty close to grave disorder.

Mr. Martel: Let me challenge your standing order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: If I may, it is not a ruling. It is straight out of the book.

Mr. Martel: I shall challenge whatever you rule.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The honourable member will please resume his seat.

I would point out to all members that standing order 35(a) says, and I quote:

"Subject to clause (c) of standing order 30, a motion to adjourn the House or the debate may not be moved until after the orders of the day or notices of motion have been entered upon except by unanimous consent of the House. Such motions do not require notice or a seconder."

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, what am I to do when the Premier—

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Oh, stop grandstanding.

Mr. Wrye: Well, get them in here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: What am I to do when a man who is Premier and a second man who wants to be Premier are not telling the truth? What redress do I have? I believe these to be the issues.

Mr. Speaker: Will the honourable member please resume his seat.

Mr. Conway: Let us give them the opportunity to clear the air. One of these gentlemen is not telling the truth.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Renfrew North, I caution you for the last time.

Mr. Conway: Clearly this House—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Please resume your seat. I have told you in very clear and specific terms what your options are.

The member for York South, I hope on a new point of order, because he has already spoken twice.

Mr. Rae: No, Mr. Speaker, it is not on a new point. It is on a similar point and, with respect, you did not let me finish my point. I want to ask you for clarification. Are you saying that under any of the rules, or under the powers inherent in your office, you are not in a position to recess the House until such time as the Treasurer or the Premier is here? Is that your ruling?

Mr. Speaker: As I said before, it is not a ruling. There are provisions within the standing

orders for certain things to happen. Nothing has happened at this point to have cause for a recess.

Mr. Martel: There is plenty of reason.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: I want to ask you for a ruling. I think we are entitled to a ruling of the chair on this matter. Are you saying you have no power to grant a request for a recess on any grounds whatever? Is that what your ruling is? We want to have a ruling from the Speaker on this question.

Mr. Speaker: To make it very clear, the Speaker has discretion within this area to decide or not to decide to do certain things. I think to be called upon to do something not of my own volition would be totally improper. I do not see any need for a recess. The orders have not been violated. The procedures of the House are being carried on as provided for.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: The member for York South has the floor and this will be the end of it.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, if that is your decision, a decision not to do something, that is a decision that we in this party want to challenge, and we want to challenge it formally before you. We challenge your decision right now on that point.

Mr. Speaker: There is nothing to challenge. It is not a ruling.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, let me repeat there is another option. I reiterate my concern not to compromise you, sir, because you are truly in a difficult situation, but there is another option: the government has an ability to produce either or both of the ministers—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. The honourable member will resume his seat.

Mr. Conway: Parliament has been misled.

Mr. Speaker: I know what the member is saying.

Mr. Conway: Parliament has been lied to. How, under those conditions, can parliament proceed?

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member will resume his seat, please.

Mr. Conway: The government should produce the first minister or the Treasurer to clear the air. That is an option we have no response to.

Mr. Speaker: You are making a judgement that I am not going to comment on. The member for Sudbury East.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, about 1:05 as I left the dining room, strolling through the chambers

was none other than the Treasurer of Ontario, who is obviously at the heart of this problem. I do not suggest he is lying, because that is not proper, but somebody has to tell us what the truth is.

You have an option to recess this House until such time as one or both of those people come forward. I do not think we want to proceed until one or the other or both come forward so we can question them, because this is of such public importance. If you refuse to do it, I want to challenge your ruling and you can test the House.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. As I said before, there is nothing to challenge. I have not made a ruling. I think it is quite obvious, and an accepted procedure, that neither the Speaker nor anybody else can make a ruling on statements that are made outside this chamber. That is what the member is asking me to do. I cannot do it. I do not have the authority nor do I have the jurisdiction.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I beg to differ—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

Mr. Conway: —because we have the transcript of yesterday—

Mr. Speaker: The member will please resume his seat.

Mr. Conway: —in which the Treasurer said the public knowledge of Standard and Poor's—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Renfrew North will please resume his seat.

Mr. Conway: I cannot believe this parliament must stagger along under such a lie.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Resume your seat right now.

Mr. Conway: I must beg you to—

Mr. Speaker: All right. It is with regret that I must name the member for Renfrew North and ask him to withdraw for the rest of the day.

Mr. Conway: I am proud to leave this chamber.

Mr. Conway left the chamber.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for York South has spoken three times.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I think it should be made very clear what is going on here. The Premier of this province has chosen to be away from this House since the day he announced his resignation; he is not here. With respect, the Treasurer in answer to questions yesterday—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer in answer to questions yesterday—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member please resume his seat.

Mr. Rae: Are you going to allow me to finish my point?

Mr. Speaker: No.

Mr. Rae: I am not allowed to put on the record the discrepancies of yesterday?

Mr. Speaker: I have no knowledge of that, of course, and cannot make a judgement.

Mr. Eakins: He is not resuming his seat.

Mr. Speaker: He will. Being a reasonable person, he will resume his seat when the Speaker is standing.

Mr. Eakins: But he is not.

Mr. Speaker: He will. Will the member please resume his seat.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have no choice but to continue to stand. I ask to be recognized on this important question. When the Treasurer says to this House, "Mr. Speaker, I cannot tell the member what stage Standard and Poor's was at," and when—I see you have cut my mike off. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am being very patient. I am being very understanding.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: We have a government, sir, that is refusing to answer to this Legislature for decisions—

Mr. Speaker: Will the honourable member please resume his seat? He is not leaving me much choice.

Mr. Mackenzie: It is time you adjourned the House.

Mr. Speaker: I will do it when, in my judgement, the proper time comes. I caution the member for York South to resume his seat.

Mr. Rae: It is very clearly a question of what is going on in this province. We have a government that is coming apart at the seams. We have a cabinet that is leaking documents with respect to the budget. With respect to financial matters, we have a clear discrepancy between what the Premier said and what the Treasurer said.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Speaker cannot make a judgement on the veracity of anybody's statements and certainly not on any statements that are made outside this chamber.

Mr. Swart: Recess the House until they come in.

Mr. Speaker: I do not think we have reached that point yet.

Mr. Rae: You can easily recess the House until either the Treasurer or the Premier comes in.

Mr. Speaker: The member for York South will please resume his seat and we can get on with the business of the House.

Mr. Foulds: There is no business of the House until the Treasurer or the Premier comes in.

Mr. Rae: Everybody knows what the business of the House is today. The business of the House today is to deal with the discrepancies in the comments made by the Premier and the Treasurer.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for York South is not leaving me any option and I also have to name him and ask him to leave the chamber.

Mr. Rae left the chamber.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: first, I ask that you tell the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk) who in the heat told me to "fuddle-duddle"—and everyone over here heard him say it—to withdraw it.

Second, I challenge the Speaker's decision and ruling to throw my leader out.

We will deal with them one at a time. We will deal with the obscenity first.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We saw your obscenity.

An hon. member: Everyone on this side heard it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I saw his. I could not hear that one.

Mr. Martel: I know what he said and so does everyone who sits over here.

Mr. Cooke: Deal with the challenge.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Just a minute. In all honesty, I did not hear any obscenity.

Mr. Martel: Everyone over here did.

Mr. Speaker: That is fine, but again you are asking me to make a judgement on something I have no knowledge of.

Mr. Mackenzie: You hear in only one ear.

Mr. Speaker: No, I do not.

On your second point, challenging my decision, I can tell you that it was a very reluctant decision. It is a decision that I did not take lightly. Having said that, the member for York South really left me with no option but to do what

I did. I was reluctant for two reasons. The first is the personal esteem in which I hold the honourable member and, second, I think that as leader of a party he has to be treated with perhaps some difference from some other members. However, he gave me no choice.

Mr. Martel: I challenge that.

Mr. Speaker: There is no challenge. There was no ruling.

Mr. Cooke: What are you talking about?

Mr. Martel: Yes, there is.

Mr. Speaker: There is no challenge. I named him as provided for in the standing orders. There is nothing to challenge. There is nothing out of order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Martel: Wait a minute. Are you not going to make my friend withdraw?

Mr. Speaker: Order. I have dealt with that point. Will the member for Sudbury East—

Mr. Martel: Everyone on this side of the House heard my friend.

Mr. Speaker: I did not and I am sure other members did not.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Will he withdraw?

Mr. Speaker: That is not for me to say.

Mr. Martel: That did it. I am not sitting down until he withdraws.

Mr. Speaker: If you will not sit down, you leave me with one option.

Mr. Martel: That might be the case, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to ask you to resume your seat.

Mr. Martel: You are going to have to throw us out systematically all afternoon, until something happens in this zoo.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry, I did not hear you.

Mr. Martel: He is going to withdraw that remark, Mr. Speaker. Everybody on that side and on this side of the House heard him, and he is going to withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: I am sure the House has reached that magic point when the Speaker is going to recess for 15 minutes.

Mr. Martel: Oh, no.

Mr. Speaker: Oh, yes.

The House recessed at 2:37 p.m.

2:51 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, we are not leaving this. There are two points I made a while ago. My friend is going to withdraw his comment to me. He can deny what he said, but there are far too many people over here who heard him say it. Since you are not one who heard it, he will not get up and deny he said it. He did say it. He is going to withdraw before the day is out or we are going to try to find out why.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I have been accused by the member for Sudbury East of uttering some obscenity in this House.

Mr. Martel: We all heard him say it.

Mr. Cooke: He has not got the guts to admit to what he said.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: I cannot withdraw something I have not said. I have been a member of this House for 13 years and I have never uttered an obscenity in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Sudbury East please resume his seat.

Mr. Martel: Well, let me hear what you are going to say.

Mr. Speaker: The allegation you made has been dealt with. The Minister of Correctional Services has made a statement. I did not hear the remark. Again, I cannot be put into the position of making a judgement of who said what or where.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I understand your predicament and I do not say you have to hear everything that goes on in this House. That member said what I said he said, and everyone on this side of the House heard him. If he is saying he did not say it, then he is saying I am a liar.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member please resume his seat.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, he is going to withdraw. Everybody on this side of the House heard him, and he cannot deny it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member resume his seat for a moment.

I am not going to be put into the position of making a judgement on something I did not hear. As we address each other we have to assume we are all honourable members—

Mr. Martel: That is not the case.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I did not hear the remark and I cannot make any personal judgement. The minister has denied it, and that is the end of it as far as I am concerned. The member for Sudbury East will please resume his seat.

Mr. Martel: He said it.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: He is lying.

Mr. Speaker: You are testing my patience.

Mr. Martel: That is fine. He is testing mine too. He is lying through his teeth. The man is lying.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to caution you for the last time.

Mr. Martel: He is lying through his teeth.

Mr. Speaker: I have no option but to name the honourable member and ask him to withdraw from the chamber. Sergeant at Arms, will you please escort the member.

Mr. Martel left the chamber.

Mr. Bradley: All of the cameras were not back.

Mr. Martel: He is still a liar.

Mr. Speaker: I did hear that, and that is unparliamentary, as you know.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, the proceedings began today with a request by the opposition that either the Treasurer or the Premier be in his place to answer a very grave discrepancy in government policy. I move a recess of this House until the Premier or the Treasurer appears.

Mr. Speaker: I have to point out that there is no provision in the standing orders for such a motion to be heard at this time.

Mr. Foulds: There is no provision in the standing orders against it, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I was just handed a note that the Premier is, in fact, in his office in the building and has just issued a statement through his press officer, who happens to be under the gallery now and who may be able to clear this matter up through one of the government ministers, that he has nothing further to say on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, hear me out. You must understand how very seriously members of the opposition take this matter and how frustrated we are by the lack of remedy that we have. I have some sympathy for the position you have been put in today, and perhaps it is a deficiency in the rules. But the glaring indictment of this whole sorry mess is that the government members are

sitting passively by and letting this whole thing happen when they have the power to bring the appropriate ministers to this House and clear up the matter.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Leader of the Opposition please resume his seat.

Mr. Peterson: I ask you in this extraordinary set of circumstances to ask the House leader or the Deputy Premier to clear up this matter; to indicate whether this note from the Premier is true, which, believe me, will just exacerbate—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the honourable member please resume his seat.

Mr. Peterson: We have a right to the truth. You should be using the moral suasion you have, the good office you have, to produce that information now before the House, or it must be obvious you will see continued chaos in this House, and none of us wants that.

Mr. Speaker: I hope that was not a threat. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would just point out to the Leader of the Opposition, and I am sure he well knows, that I do not have any authority to demand the appearance, of or an explanation by, any member in this House on any side. From listening to your point of privilege, I think you have made the point quite well.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, it is just for that reason that I have made a motion, which I put to you, that this House recess until the Treasurer or the Premier appears. Let me, if I may, speak to the motion.

Mr. Speaker: No, I have to point out to the honourable member that he is out of order. There is no provision in the standing orders for such a motion to be made. There is a provision in the standing orders for the Speaker to recess the House on what he judges to be grave disorder, but there is no other provision for a recess to be made.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, did I hear you correctly to say my motion was out of order?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Foulds: I challenge your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: There is no provision for that.

Mr. Foulds: I am challenging your ruling. You made a ruling on my motion. My motion is not specifically prohibited under the standing orders. You have ruled it out of order, and I am challenging your ruling.

Mr. Speaker: I would just point out to the honourable member that there is no provision for it, so that is what I have to be guided by.

Mr. Foulds: Then you have to make a ruling that it is out of order. You have done so, and I challenge it.

Mr. Speaker: All right. I will put it to the House.

4:52 p.m.

The House divided on the Speaker's ruling, which was sustained on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Baetz, Barlow, Brandt, Cousens, Dean, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Henderson, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCague, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S.;

Norton, Ramsay, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Shymko, Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Villeneuve, Watson, Welch, Wells, Wiseman.

Nays

Allen, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Kerrio, Laughren, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, McClellan, McGuigan, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Riddell, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Sargent, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Wrye.

Ayes 47; nays 33.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would like to indicate to the House that the Premier will be here to answer questions from the leaders of the two other parties, following a statement by the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie).

Without any disrespect to you, I would also suggest, in order to return to a degree of normalcy in the House, if you were to ask for the consent of the House and if it is agreeable to you, that the leader of the New Democratic Party, the member for York South, and the member for Renfrew North might be permitted to return to this sitting of the House.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have the unanimous consent of the House?

Interjections.

Mr. Laughren: Is that unanimous?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I did not hear any objection, but I was told it was not, so I am going to put the question again.

Do we have the unanimous consent of the House?

Agreed to.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I want to make it clear our challenge was to the government and not to yourself or to your position.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

REPORT ON RENT REVIEW

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to table today the report on the first phase of the Commission of Inquiry into Residential Tenancies.

The commissioner, Mr. Stuart Thom, former treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada, was appointed by order in council on November 26, 1982, to conduct an inquiry under the Public Inquiries Act. I want to express my gratitude to Mr. Thom for the diligence and effort he has put into producing this report. I would like to introduce Mr. Thom, who is sitting in the gallery along with Mr. John Todd, his research director, Mr. Don Jack, counsel, and Thelma Hershorn, who was the administrator.

In setting up the inquiry, the government confirmed its commitment to continuing rent controls, and the commissioner was given broad terms of reference to look into the application of existing laws to the regulation of rents and to make recommendations on changes that would reduce any inequities that might be found in the present system.

Because of the complexity of the matters to be dealt with, the commissioner chose to divide his task into two parts or phases. The first phase, covered by this report, deals with the following part of his terms of reference:

"1. To examine, study and inquire into the laws of Ontario, including the statutes and regulations passed thereunder affecting residential tenancies in Ontario for the purposes of determining,

"a) The equity of the current system of rent review, having regard for the rights and interests of both the landlord and the tenant...

"c) Whether a more expeditious procedure should be applied to the review and decision-making process of the Residential Tenancy Commission in view of the issues being raised, the rights of appeal and the need for timely decisions;

"d) The appropriate amendments required in the Residential Tenancies Act, having regard for the decision of the Supreme Court of Canada in respect thereto;

"e) The advisability of integrating the Landlord and Tenant Act with the provision for rent

review as was contemplated by the Residential Tenancies Act prior to the decision of the Supreme Court;

"f) Any other changes in such laws, procedures and processes necessary and desirable to provide for fair and equitable treatment of landlords and tenants under a system of rent review."

On October 9 the commissioner started his hearing on the second phase of this task, which will deal with the following parts of his terms of reference:

"1. To examine, study and inquire into the laws of Ontario, including the statutes and regulations passed thereunder affecting residential tenancies in Ontario for the purposes of determining...

"b) The effect of rent review on the level of rental rates and the supply of residential accommodation in the province;

"2. To recommend such changes in the laws, procedures and processes as in the opinion of the commissioner are necessary and desirable to provide for the fair and equitable treatment of landlords and tenants under a system of rent review;

"3. To recommend what measures, in addition to rent review, the province of Ontario might take to assist in providing rental accommodation at fair rents."

With reference to the second phase, I would emphasize the importance of the issues to be reviewed. I would like to say that in carrying out its role of providing an equitable basis for landlord and tenant relations, the government must continue to do so in a way that still encourages the private construction of private accommodation.

In the course of his first phase, Commissioner Thom held some 80 days of public hearings from February to September 1983, in Toronto, Ottawa, Sudbury and London. In addition to the further hearings in May 1984, Mr. Thom also received many written briefs and letters from interested groups and individuals across the province.

The result of his deliberations is the report I am tabling today, which deals with the system of rent regulation begun under the 1975 act and revised and continued under the 1979 act as varied by the 1982 act.

As members will see, the report is 297 pages long and contains 65 recommendations of varying complexity and importance. They touch on just about every aspect of the rent review system and propose changes which in many areas

are interrelated and which must be carefully considered. It is also clear that some issues being considered in the second phase may have an impact on some of the recommendations made in the first phase.

From our examination of the report to date, it would appear that a large number of the recommendations will likely be generally acceptable to both landlords and tenants. Other recommendations, as one might expect in such an important and complex area, will undoubtedly generate further public debate and require careful consideration. I have therefore attached to the copies of the report being distributed, a notice that the government would like to receive any comments on the report as soon as possible, and not later than November 30, 1984, so our response to this report is not delayed.

I will not attempt to summarize the report in this statement, but I will indicate the breadth of the report and the government's overall intention to respond to it. There are a number of recommendations I would like to comment on at this time. I will refer to them in the order they appear in the report, which does not reflect any order of priority or importance.

1. The first recommendation in Mr. Thom's report is that there should be tenant and landlord representatives on the board of the Residential Tenancies Commission.

The board is responsible for the administration of the affairs of the commission and membership on the board does not require that the member also sit as a commissioner to hold rent review hearings. The government finds this recommendation desirable, and we agree there should be a change in the legislation to make such representation possible.

2. Recommendation 19 is that the maximum permitted rent increase that may be made without application for whole building rent review—that is, the ordinary statutory increase that we think of—should be set annually in accordance with a fixed ratio established between the rate of increase in a cost inflation index relevant to the landlord's costs and the rate of the statutory increase.

I must say that although I favour establishing a mechanism for keeping this rate in line with the swings of the economy, our deliberation on this recommendation would have been assisted by having before us, at the same time, Commissioner Thom's recommendations on the establishment of a fair return on equity. Unfortunately, we will not have his advice until we receive the report on the second phase of the

commissioner's tasks. Therefore, we will have to assess this recommendation and deal with it on its own merits.

As we consider this recommendation, I would also draw attention, as I did earlier, to the fact that there is some interrelationship. In this case, I draw attention to recommendation 48, which recommends that an annual allowance that adjusts the landlord's net income to offset the effect of inflation should be ordered in whole building review applications.

It is also recommended that this adjustment, which I believe is intended to protect the landlord's income, should not be more than the statutory rate as determined under recommendation 19 which I just referred to. In any event, the government agrees that there should be some mechanism for periodic adjustment of the statutory increase and will address this issue.

3. Recommendation 42 proposes that section 3 of the Residential Complexes Financing Costs Restraint Act should be kept in force. This is the section that imposes a five per cent ceiling on additional rent increases due to financing costs on the sale of a property. As members will recall, this legislation is sunset for December 31, 1984, and it is our intention to extend this provision while the government considers this recommendation.

4. Recommendation 49 is that provision should be made in the Residential Tenancies Act for tenant-initiated rent correction hearings to be conducted by the commission where tenants representing 50 per cent of the rental units authorize such action. This is a recommendation that has obvious merit when applied in a fair and practical manner. Care must be taken, however, that the principle is not extended into areas that penalize the landlord for making reasonable cost savings or improvements.

5. Recommendation 58 is that the exemption from rent regulation of rental units for which the monthly rent is \$750 or more should be modified so as not to exempt units that are now subject to rent regulation. The commissioner sets out his argument for this recommendation and also refers to the possibility of varying it for different-sized rental units.

The Legislature is well aware that there are different points of view on this matter, and the government believes they deserve further consideration before a final decision is made on the recommendation. Members will recall that the \$750-exemption level provided by clause 134(1)(e) of the Residential Tenancies Act was

brought into effect by a regulation that was effective as of March 7, 1980.

As a temporary measure, pending the further review of this recommendation by the government, the regulation implementing the \$750 exemption level has been revoked as of today. The effect of this revocation is to continue in effect any exemption that arose before today as a result of monthly rents being or reaching \$750 or more, but to prevent new exemptions arising in cases where rents subsequently reach the \$750 level.

6. The final recommendation I wish to comment on at this time is recommendation 61, which is that the commission should set up and maintain a rent registry containing the information provided by landlords and relevant information from orders made on whole-building rent review applications and tenants' applications.

The government is committed to the establishment of a rent registry in some form, and it will be included in our revised legislation. Before outlining the scope and extent of the registry, we must consider the administrative and cost implications, the impact of this proposal on all concerned, the complexity of the proposal and concerns regarding compliance and enforcement.

5:10 p.m.

In commenting on these specific issues, I do not mean to suggest that other issues in the report which are not referred to in this statement are not important. As I have said before, I have addressed these examples to indicate the breadth of the report and the government's intention to respond to it.

The report will be fully reviewed and assessed as expeditiously as possible by an inter-ministerial working group so that we can get on with the task of making the rent control and rent review system more equitable for both landlords and tenants. As we move to refine the system I would like to repeat, so there will be no doubt in anyone's mind, that this government remains committed to a fair and equitable rent review system.

Mr. Speaker: Quite obviously, if we are going to have the full hour of question period we are going to go past the normal time of the dinner recess. Do we have the consent of the House to carry through for the full hour without interruption?

Agreed to.

An hon. member: Without interruption?

Mr. Speaker: I meant without a dinner break, of course.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Premier. The Premier is quoted in today's Toronto Sun as saying that he appeared before an "appeal tribunal" of Standard and Poor's in New York this summer, some time in August. Can the Premier tell this House what matters were being appealed before that appeal tribunal?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I must confess that I have missed this environment for the past two or three weeks. In fact, when I heard the bells ringing today and after they went on for a while, I nearly phoned the Lieutenant Governor to see whether he was available.

Mr. Kerrio: It was a long lunch.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I did not start my lunch until about 2:20, as a matter of fact.

I have not read the Toronto Sun. My best recollection of what I said to the reporters who were assembled yesterday, after I announced the by-elections, was that I felt as if I was appearing before the Court of Appeal; I think those were the exact words I used. I also went on to say, particularly to one reporter, "Do not take it literally."

I point out to the Leader of the Opposition that I use that phrase with some regularity. When policy and priorities board of cabinet is sitting, and as my colleagues from the various ministries present us their proposals for the upcoming fiscal year, I greet them by saying, "Welcome, gentlemen"—or, in the case of two of my ministers, "Welcome, ladies"—"to the court of appeal." I say that somewhat facetiously, but there is a measure of truth in it, in that they are making their presentations to us about what they envisage for their ministries.

It was in the latter part of August—and I think I should trace some of the chronology, because I know the Leader of the Opposition is most anxious to have this matter clarified—that I visited New York City in the company of the Treasurer. I think one has to go back to the last provincial budget. My recollection—and I am going strictly by memory—is that the rating agencies raised no issues after the budget.

It was brought to my attention some time during August—it could have been the latter part of July, but I think it was the beginning of August—that one of the rating agencies was doing an evaluation of Canada as a whole. The

Treasurer suggested in the latter part of the month that there would be merit in his visiting with the rating agency, which is neither unique nor unusual, and that he felt my presence might be helpful.

I always try to appear where I might be helpful, so I attended with the Treasurer to put forward the position that we sensed was in the interest of Ontario. The evaluation of the various provinces of Canada—I am not sure whether that included the municipalities or the government of Canada—was part of that rating agency's approach in this current year.

I think it is fair to state that my presence there and what I said to the rating agency were really to reinforce what had already been communicated about the financial position of this province. I would not presume to suggest that my presence had anything to do with the determination made by the rating agency. I would not presume to do that at all, except to make the casual observation that the rating agency maintained the triple-A credit rating of this province.

Mr. Peterson: I want to be very clear. I do not want this to be reduced to semantic differences. Is the Premier saying he was misquoted in the *Toronto Sun*? If that is what he is saying, will he please stand in this House and say so. Or is he saying he was not there to appeal anything? We deserve a very clear answer to these questions.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have very rarely said I have been misquoted. I certainly was not misquoted in either the *Toronto Sun* or the *Toronto Star*. I happen to have a clipping here from the *Toronto Star*. My recollection is that I used the phrase "court of appeal," although I may have said "appeal tribunal." I used this phrase with regard to how we make presentations to the policy and priorities board. I will not get into a semantic exercise, and I appreciate that the Leader of the Opposition does not wish to do so, but I certainly would not say I had been misquoted. I used either that phrase or something comparable to it.

I have discussed this issue over the past years with representatives from the rating agencies on one or two occasions in New York and on a number of occasions here in our own province. It is not unusual for the Premier on occasion to meet with representatives of the rating agencies. On this visit, I went because of the evaluation that this particular agency was making with respect to all of Canada. One of the reasons I felt it was important to go, and I think the Leader of the Opposition would agree with this, was to make sure there was an understanding.

They are very competent people. Do not misunderstand me. They are conscientious and they do not represent any philosophical or political bias. The member for York South might say they represent a philosophical bias, so I will not use that terminology, but they do it pretty much on the basis of statistical information and an assessment of the economic or financial position of individual jurisdictions.

There is no question that we spent some time explaining the differences, as I perceive them at least, between the jurisdictions of the provinces in Canada and the states of the Union. The differences are in the breadth of our jurisdiction. We have certain programs, such as health, that are provincial obligations and do not exist for state jurisdictions. The states have certain health programs, but there is nothing comparable to what we offer here or what we do as a provincial government.

5:20 p.m.

I cannot give the exact number of states which have constitutional limitations with respect to their budgetary process. I think I am right in saying that the state of Michigan, for example, has a constitutional limitation that says it cannot spend more than it takes in.

I was there to put our best foot forward in the interests of our province. I make no apologies for that. While one cannot be, nor should be, a captive of rating agencies per se, I think it is fair to state that the better our credit rating, the better it is in terms of the finances of the province. I do not think anyone will dispute that.

To further clarify this, we did not get into discussions in terms of their suggesting any priorities for us. There was no criticism of the social programs we support in Ontario. They did not get into a discussion of the individual items within the budget of the province, but there was a discussion related to our objective of continuing to reduce the budgetary deficit. There is no question that is a part of any assessment that any rating agency would make. There is no question either—

Mr. Peterson: The Treasurer denied that the other day.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did not.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Leader of the Opposition should do his homework.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: I hear so many different stories over there.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My friend is dead wrong.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am trying not to be provocative, but the honourable member may provoke me if he is not careful.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I pointed out to the rating agency when I was there—it was aware of it, but I did tend to emphasize it—the progress we have made in this current year vis-à-vis the past fiscal year. I said to the agency, and the Treasurer said too, that our objective was to continue to reduce the budgetary deficit. The Leader of the Opposition can quarrel with that. That is fair. He can say it would not be an objective of his. However, it continues to be an objective of this government. The rate at which we do it, and the extent to which we can accomplish it, are matters of judgement that will be contained in the next provincial budget.

There was also some general discussion of the economy of Canada and of our views on where we saw the economy going. There was some discussion of the views of where the economy was going in the United States. Members will not be surprised that one or two members of the rating agency very casually asked me for my predictions on the outcome of what was then the ongoing federal election.

Mr. Mancini: The Treasurer said it was an ordinary meeting; the Premier said it was an extraordinary meeting.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Any meeting I attend, I try to make extraordinary.

Mr. Speaker: I think that was a very lengthy answer, Premier. Thank you.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, did the Premier, or did he not, attend an appeal tribunal in New York in connection with Ontario's credit rating?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I want to make this abundantly clear. It was not an appeal tribunal. It was a group of representatives from the municipal side of that particular agency, those who specialize in Canada. I guess there were seven or eight of them sitting around—no, they were not sitting around the table; they were on one side of the table. The Treasurer and I were outnumbered in terms of total numbers of people. We were on the other side of the table.

It was very informal and pleasant. I was presenting my perspectives on the financial position of Ontario. I was indicating very clearly how well I believed we had done and that we

intended to proceed in the same general direction.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier has said he was not misquoted when he used the words “appeal tribunal,” but then he said he did not appear before an appeal tribunal. I am sure the Premier is very familiar with the procedures at Standard and Poor's whereby it does ratings, makes a preliminary finding and then invites people in to discuss those things. He is familiar with that, and I assume that is the way in which he is using the word “appeal.”

I also know the Premier is a lawyer and knows what “appeal tribunal” means, as do I, and he uses his words very carefully. The question is, what was being appealed?

Hon. Mr. Davis: With great respect, I tried to draw a parallel. There is not a minister of the crown who has not heard me use that terminology about representations made on budgetary items when we as a government are deliberating as policy and priorities board. I welcome them on almost every occasion, saying, “Welcome to the court of appeal.” I do not say I should use that phraseology, because it is not a court of appeal.

Mr. Laughren: Weak, pretty weak.

Mr. Swart: Pretty weak.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The honourable members may find it weak. I have always found that being factual is the only route to go. I try to be careful with the phrases I use, but I am not always careful.

I do pretend to be—I do not pretend—I happen to be a lawyer by profession, a profession which I have not practised since roughly 1961 or 1962, but I say with the greatest of respect that the real issue here is not how one might interpret what I have said or what the Treasurer has said; the relevant matter surely is the rating of this province.

Mr. Laughren: Oh, and how it got there.

Hon. Mr. Davis: How did we get there? I will tell the members opposite how we got there. We got there by good financial management and that reality is a fact of the rating.

Mr. Peterson: It is our understanding that the only time an appeal occurs at Standard and Poor's is when there has been a rerating or a downward rating. Was there a preliminary decision to rate downward the financial rating of this province? Was the Premier there appealing against that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: The Leader of the Opposition says I am familiar with all the practices. I do

not know whether the practices are the same in every rating agency. I do not have the foggiest idea. I have no way of judging whether the practices, as the Leader of the Opposition describes them, are the same in every rating agency.

Quite obviously, I attended that meeting in New York in the company of the Treasurer to make the best possible case for this province as the agency made its judgement related to what our credit rating should be. If I had not gone, I would think the Leader of the Opposition might have been critical.

Mr. Peterson: Did the agency express concern about this government's budgetary and fiscal policies? Is it true, as Claire Hoy reported in the *Sunday Sun*, that the Premier had to make "major concessions" and that, as we read the memo as reported in the *Toronto Star*, the government is worried about that credit rating and is going to keep a very tight lid on all social expenditures? Is that a result of the agency's directive after the meeting?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I have respect for the writer involved. There are some days when I do not totally agree with him, and I would think there are days when the Leader of the Opposition disagrees with him even more than I do, but I am delighted to see the Leader of the Opposition using him as his source.

There were no concessions given and there were no concessions asked. That was not the nature of the meeting. I am doing my best to explain it to the member. It went on for some time. We covered a number of areas that were not related to our credit position. They were a very decent, friendly group of individuals, but there were no "concessions" made.

The area I did indicate as the objective of the government was, and continues to be, the reduction of the budgetary deficit. Certainly, I am concerned every year. I think part of my responsibility is to be concerned.

I cannot say, as I endeavoured to explain to the press, whether the information in the memo to the various ministers was communicated by way of memo in previous years. This is the time of year when we are in the process of determining the transfer payments. That is no secret. The member is totally aware of, not how the process works, but roughly the time frame. While the rhetoric in the memo might have been somewhat different last year, the substance would be almost identical.

I caution the ministers every year when we start this very difficult process—it is one of the

most difficult in terms of government responsibility—that the rating is important. The Leader of the Opposition can say it is not that important, and that would be a legitimate point of view, but I have used this device for the past five or six years in communicating to the ministers.

5:30 p.m.

The one thing that was different in the memo I sent to the ministers, and I make no apologies for this, was that I said I wanted to continue the process during this period of transition, or whatever way the member wishes to describe it, and I felt it was important that we make the determinations on the transfer payments but that any new policy initiatives should be delayed. Other than the transfer payments, new policy initiatives that might be brought forward by the operating ministers should be delayed until my successor had an opportunity to establish his or her priorities and make his or her judgements. I think that is a very logical and sensible approach to take.

Mr. Rae: In the cabinet memorandum that he himself has referred to—and it is a sign of a disintegrating government that we would get these cabinet memorandums on the front page of the *Toronto Star*—the Premier says, "To avoid having my successor face an early loss of our triple-A rating, it will be necessary to bring in minimal allocations for your approval."

What discussions had he in New York that would have led him to believe his successor might face an early loss of his or her triple-A rating?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I do confess to the leader of the New Democratic Party that I cannot give him the exact phraseology, because I am not sure it was done in written form last year; it may have been. I can say to him only that it is, in the general thrust of the memorandum, exactly what has been communicated year after year for the past number of years. I always take this opportunity to remind my cabinet colleagues—because they are very ambitious, as they should be, for the programs within their ministries—that we have a responsibility in a collective sense to exercise some judgement and some measure of restraint.

The leader of the New Democratic Party can quarrel with us about the extent of the restraint. That is fair game; it is a fair political debate. But please understand that the memorandum, with the exception of what I said in response to the Leader of the Opposition about allowing my successor some flexibility in new program initiatives, is, in tenor, roughly what I have said,

I think I can safely say, for perhaps the past six or seven years.

Mr. Peterson: I have a simple question. Before his visit, had a decision been made by Standard and Poor's to downgrade the rating of this province, and had he been informed of that decision, by Standard and Poor's, to downgrade Ontario's rating?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I can very clearly state that no decision had been made. If a decision had been made, obviously I would not have been there.

Mr. Rae: It seems to me the Premier has stated in his own memorandum to his own cabinet that there was some apparent risk of an early loss of the triple-A rating. Those are his own words; those are not our words; those are words he used in this cabinet memorandum.

Where did the Premier get the impression that this was a possibility? More directly, was it an impression that he gained from a provisional decision or some kind of decision that might have been communicated to the Treasurer or to officials in the Treasury?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I cannot give the leader of the New Democratic Party the exact number, but a number of provinces were downgraded, as he is aware, during the recent recession. I think what I said in the memo was quite consistent with what I have said in other years. I said this to the press. The possibility always exists that any jurisdiction can be downgraded. It is always there; it is there every year.

The probability is a different thing. If the honourable member had asked me last year at this time or, more important, at the time of the provincial budget, whether there was a possibility, I would have had to answer in all honesty that the possibility was there.

If he had asked me what the probability would be, my answer would have been then—and this was carried out, I think, after the budget—that the probability would be highly unlikely on the basis of the information I had.

But I have to say to the leader of the New Democratic Party that I cannot alter the system whereby these judgements are made and whereby on an annual basis we have to be aware as a government of the potential that what we do with respect to our priorities, the extent of our expenditures and the amount of our deficit, we then have to be in a position to account to, or at least have our decisions assessed by, various rating agencies. That is not unique; that possibility is always there, and I am just tremendously encouraged that since I have been Premier we

have had that triple-A rating for some period of time.

I can recall that the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent) was not sure what a triple-A rating was when we first got it. Maybe he still does not totally understand what the triple-A rating is, but it is a very good rating.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I will bet he has a triple-A, but I do not.

Mr. Rae: What I think the Premier has not conveyed to the Legislature in clear and simple terms are the answers to some very simple, basic questions. The triple-A rating may have been there for 13 or 14 years, the duration of his time—

An hon. member: Seven years.

Mr. Rae: Seven years; but it is my understanding that this is the first time in 14 years the Premier has gone to New York to meet with Standard and Poor's to discuss the credit rating, so in that sense it is an unusual occasion. It is not a routine event. This is not an ordinary series of events.

The leakage of the cabinet memo that took place was not an ordinary leak and it does not appear to be an ordinary memo. If it is such an ordinary memo, is the Premier prepared, now or tomorrow, to table memos that have come out in previous years, so that we can make a comparison to find out whether every year he goes around threatening cabinet ministers with the imminent loss of the triple-A credit rating? Is that the ordinary way in which the Premier conducts his affairs or was this a little unusual this year?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I am not prepared to table any such documentation. I have already said to the leader of the New Democratic Party that I am not sure it was conveyed in written form. I do not use the word "threaten." I have said to a reporter that to me it is a very significant form of discipline. That is the difference between the way we operate on this side of the House and the way the leader of the New Democratic Party may threaten his colleagues. I do not threaten my colleagues at all. I just tell them the facts of life. They are responsible people and they react accordingly.

Mr. Peterson: The Premier told this House there had been no decision, preliminary or otherwise, to downgrade Ontario's credit rating, yet he went to an appeal tribunal. What he was appealing I am not exactly sure.

Was the Premier given any indication that the credit rating was in danger if he did not follow a certain course of action? Was he given any grounds to believe that Ontario, or his successor,

may be threatened by a downgrading under some set of conditions?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I will appeal to the member's logic; it may not be easy, but I will do my best. The Treasurer will have to help me with this. Are the ratings out?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, they are. We have them.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The ratings are out. The particular rating agency has made its judgement. It has conveyed this to all the borrowers who rely upon the ratings of that and other agencies. When did the rating come out?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In mid-September.

Hon. Mr. Davis: In mid-September, a month and a half ago. It is unlikely there will be a provincial budget before some time next spring. There will perhaps be borrowings by Ontario Hydro and perhaps by this government, spanning a six-month or eight-month time frame.

We have done nothing to alter our present budgetary position. We have not said to the school boards, "Give us back some money." We have not said to the hospital boards, "Give us back some money." We have not said to the municipalities, "Give us back some money." Is the member suggesting to me that the rating agency would communicate this in public terms to some very responsible investors right across North America and in Europe, predicated on something that may or may not happen next April or May?

Obviously, if the member pursues the logic of it, he will understand that they did not dictate anything. We have done nothing different. We have not altered our priorities and we have not altered our expenditures in terms of the priorities we have, and yet the rating was given.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The Premier stated that he was not misquoted in the papers. The quotation is, "The Treasurer suggested there was merit in my appearing in front of the appeal tribunal." He is stating at the same time that, while he was not misquoted, he did not mean what he said when he referred to an appeal tribunal.

Is it best to summarize what the Premier is saying? In my experience, the Premier does not go around casting careless words into the air. Are we now to understand those words were carelessly misspoken, there was no appeal of any kind, there was no concern expressed at any time about Ontario's credit rating, about the amount of money required to pay on the interest, about Ontario Hydro's activities and so on? Were none

of these concerns ever expressed to him, either before or during his meeting at Standard and Poor's?

What really took place in New York was that the Premier was going to the ball game anyway and he decided to drop in because he simply wanted to check on how things were going. He wanted to have a general discussion about Canada and everything else because he knows a lot about those things. Is this really what he is asking us to take from his answers today? The Premier went for a summer stroll in New York. He had never been there before and he decided it was a good time to go in and chat with the folks at Standard and Poor's.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The very simple answer to that question is no.

Mr. Rae: The Premier's colleague the Treasurer said yesterday in talking to us: "The member must understand that the rating agencies are retrospective. They simply look at what has occurred. They do not look into the future and try to figure out what one is likely to do next year." He goes on to say, "As I indicated last week, the entire discussion is retrospective." The word occurs several times.

If this is true, can the Premier please explain why, in Standard and Poor's International Creditweek, it states as follows, "Improved budgetary results in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are expected to reduce the debt burden." Why would there be discussions about 1985 and 1986? Is this a retrospective analysis of what is happening?

Hon. Mr. Davis: I cannot say whether that is a retrospective analysis. I can only tell the member what was discussed and what I communicated to these ladies and gentlemen at the rating agency.

Part of the judgement is based—and I think this is logical once again—on the track record of the particular jurisdiction. I do not want to sound less than modest, but I think it is fair to say they did communicate to us some measure of enthusiasm for the way the province had conducted its affairs. This will disappoint the member for York South, but that was part of the impression I gained.

While a part of their analysis and a part of their judgement is predicated upon past performance, in the current financial year they are interested in the objective we have of reducing the budgetary deficit. While I have not analysed what the Treasurer said, I would be surprised if he did not say that we did communicate to them that our objective was to continue to reduce the budgetary deficit.

This is something I have said publicly here. It was no great secret in New York or with this particular rating agency. It has been an objective for some time. The speed with which we achieve it, the rate at which we can reduce the deficit, is always a matter for government judgement and for members opposite to offer their constructive criticisms.

While this particular appearance was unique in that the total complement was there, I have discussed this matter with representatives from rating agencies both here and in New York on previous occasions. In this particular meeting I met with the total panel, made up of the people who make the determination, and it was unique from this standpoint.

We have had people from the rating agencies here. We have met with them at lunch; we have met with them at dinner. We have discussed various economic issues and the financial position of this province. It is not unique at all. Succeeding Treasurers have done this every year, sometimes two or three times a year for all I know. I do know on some occasions I have done it myself.

Mr. Rae: I know the Premier is not pre-occupied with what goes on in this House, but I will tell him. Yesterday, the Treasurer said: "The member must understand that the rating agencies are retrospective. They simply look at what has occurred. They do not look into the future and try to figure out what one is likely to do next year."

If that is true—and I do not think any of us in this House believe for an instant that it is true, that it is the case and it corresponds to the facts—how is it possible that an agency would say, "Improved budgetary results in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are expected to reduce the debt burden," unless that agency had been given assurances that this is what the budget would produce?

Unless that is what they were told by the Premier and by the Treasurer, how, in the name of goodness—surely they have some credibility at stake—are they going to come forward and say this is what is going to happen in 1985 and 1986? They are not talking about overall economic activity and they use their words very carefully: fiscal, economic, budgetary. They are all different. They are talking of the budget of Ontario and what they are saying is that improved budgetary results in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are expected to reduce the debt burden.

They are talking there about expenditures. They are talking about revenues. The Premier must have discussed expenditures. He must have

discussed some revenues, overall; in general or in specific terms, I do not know. Will the Premier deny that directly contradicts the statement made in the Legislature yesterday by the Treasurer of this province when he stood up with a song and a dance and said everything that was done was retrospective? It was not retrospective and we all know it.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I would say, and I will try to temper my reply, I have never been a member of a rating agency so I am drawing on somewhat limited experience.

Mr. Rae: You may be yet.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Of all of the opportunities that may or may not be there—one or two—becoming a member of a rating agency does not inspire me, because I do not have the talent.

I would say to the member for York South that as I sense the discussions, there is no question that a good part of their judgement—and it is a judgement, because they are human beings making it, they do not do it on the basis of a computer, punching a whole lot of buttons and coming out with their decision; if the member is listening to me, I am trying to answer him, but if he prefers to talk to the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) I will sit down until he has finished his conversation—I would say a good part of it is retrospective.

I have already told the member two or three times, there is no question that I said to them—because we did talk about the future in terms of the finances of this province; I pointed to the track record, and the Treasurer had said this in public speech after public speech well before the end of August—the continued objective of this government was to reduce the budgetary deficit. Certainly I said that to them.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, to the first minister—who, as the member for York South very properly said, does not have a reputation for misspeaking himself and casting words and phrases idly about in the wind—do we understand from the first minister this afternoon that he did not believe when he went to New York in late August he was appearing before an appeal tribunal, that in fact he was misstating the case when he was quoted in today's press as having said that?

Do we now understand the Premier to be saying in effect that he did not feel he was appearing before an appeal of some kind during which there were raised serious questions about the spending practices and the financial management of the Ontario government such that earlier this summer that rating agency had very seriously

considered downgrading—if in fact they had not proceeded to downgrade—the rating of this province?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, I cannot speak for the rating agency. I would not presume to do so. I would just reiterate to the honourable member that I went there. The Treasurer is a very cautious person; he knew that the rating agency was in the process of doing an evaluation of all of this country, which included Ontario, and that we should seize the opportunity to make our best case. There is no question the possibility was there for the rating agency to make some judgement that would not be as we would like to see it. No question; they have that right every year.

5:50 p.m.

I point out to the member that I am not sure whether they commented publicly, but in the reaction after the budget there were certainly no negatives that I am aware of from any of the rating agencies—none whatsoever. I may be wrong on this, but there was—not support, they do not support—no criticism from the rating agencies after the budget. Let me put it that way. This particular rating agency, which was the only one doing it, was reassessing all of Canada.

It is fair to state, and I do not like quoting other people, that the impression I got in part of these discussions from the people who were listening was that they were in general terms quite complimentary about the financial management of Ontario. Heavens above, they would not have come out with their rating in a public way if they had not been satisfied. I would ask the members to explain the logic of their coming out with their ratings some six weeks ago, or whatever the date was, if they were not satisfied. We are not doing anything between now and the next budget that will change anything substantially.

I do not think the member is suggesting they would deliberately mislead those people who depend on these ratings when making their investment decisions for what could be a six-month to eight-month time. If they had serious concerns about the financial management of Ontario, they would have downgraded the rating. That is the only logical conclusion to which one can come.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Premier is saying there is an ever-increasing congruence between the priorities of Standard and Poor's on Wall Street or thereabouts and the social and other priorities of the government of Ontario. That warms the cockles of the hearts of bankers throughout Canada and North America. I am not

sure it warms the cockles of a great many people who will be left outside as a result of those decisions.

What I want to ask the Premier is this. He is saying that, as a result of the meeting he had, there was apparently complete agreement with respect to the overall budgetary picture in fiscal 1985 and the overall budgetary picture in fiscal 1986. That is very different from the story the Treasurer told us. It is very different from that song and dance yesterday—totally different.

The Premier says he came back and said to his cabinet colleagues something he says every year. Every year he says something to the effect that “to avoid having my successor face an early loss of our triple-A rating, it will be necessary to bring in minimal applications for your approval.” That kind of Dickensian language with respect to social programs in his government is apparently, in his own words, something the government does every year, something that is traditional with him and with his government.

Why is it that upon the Premier's return from New York, where he reached such speedy and apparently easy agreement with respect to fiscal year 1985 and fiscal year 1986, his statement to his colleagues referred to transfer payments dealing with services to people? Why was there no public statement from him?

There is yet to be a public statement from him with respect to the biggest borrower in the province, guaranteed by the government of Ontario, that is to say Ontario Hydro, which has received an 8.5 per cent increase from the Premier's Ontario Energy Board and his cabinet.

Why is it that the Premier came back from New York and imposed priorities on this province that are unfair to working people and those who depend on social services and leave the real villain of the piece in Ontario's credit rating completely out of the picture? Can he explain the logic of that?

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer covered this very thoroughly yesterday and again in estimates.

Mr. Rae: I thought he did not say it yesterday.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Did he or did he not?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member was not here.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Did he or did he not go into this thoroughly yesterday?

Mr. Rae: If the Premier is asking me whether the Treasurer's answers yesterday were satisfactory, the answer is no.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They had two members here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Now to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Once again, the process I was involved in did not reach any agreement. One does not sit there and negotiate. They listen and they make their judgement. It is as simple as that. There is no negotiation. There is no discussion of our health programs per se. They do not get into assessing whether we are using the right priorities.

If we look at some of the words that were used when the ratings came out, the rating agencies did make the point that there are some arguments that the maintenance of the social programs which we have supported can, in the cases of some provinces, limit their ability to reduce the budgetary deficit in times of economic improvement. Those are decisions that we make.

Those are decisions that we will make when the next provincial budget is introduced. I reiterate this, and I make no apologies for it. The leader of the third party will never have this experience. There is a group of able men and women who are totally dedicated to their responsibilities, who appear before the policy and priorities board, which makes the determinations with respect to allocations, and they all come putting their best foot forward.

If I were to accept all of their requests, it might even be a shade more than the leader of the New Democratic Party himself would support. I doubt that, but I can only say that it is part of my responsibility to remind my cabinet colleagues that while their ministries are fundamental and important and they must present their best case—and I have never discouraged them from doing so—there is a collective responsibility upon all of us to live within our economic means.

That is an uncomfortable position for me. It is much easier for me, sitting there as chairman of the board, to say yes. I have always found it easier to say yes than no. I am sure that would be true of the member for York South. I do not have the luxury of doing that. I can only say that there was no commitment given with respect to cutting, slashing or doing anything else.

The only commitment that was given, and it was not really a commitment at all, was an indication we would continue to manage the affairs of this province in a responsible way and that a continuing reduction of the deficit was a continuing objective of this government. The

leader of the third party may disagree with that as an objective. That is fair, but it is still the position of this government.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Before the Premier closes this off, I want to say this. He knows he went down there to put out the fire.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Grey-Bruce will please resume his seat. That is not a point of order.

Mr. Sargent: It is a point of order. Why does the Premier not table the correspondence on this matter?

Mr. Speaker: That is not a point of order. You are asking a question. Will the honourable member please resume his seat.

REPORT ON RENT REVIEW

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations.

The minister indicated in a lengthy statement today, when he tabled the report of the Thom commission, that the government is going to take a wait-and-see position on the whole matter. The government will not do very much for at least a month and maybe some time longer.

Why did he not indicate in his statement that he is going to refer this matter of great importance, which has been sitting around for almost two years, since November 16, 1982, to a legislative committee? Since he has not indicated that in his statement, will he do so?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I think we have been quite clear in this statement about what my intentions were. I intended to give interested parties a period of time in which to comment on the report, a report which the commissioner himself said in his opening remarks, as he commenced phase 2, undoubtedly would evoke some comments and debate on this issue. That is what royal commission reports are about.

While we are receiving comments, the government has already put in place an interministerial committee to draw up some recommendations and proposals that I as the minister may put to my colleagues. That process is under way. When it has been completed, presentations will be made to my colleagues. It is my intention as the present minister that this will lead to legislation in the spring of next year, which will give the member more than ample opportunity to put forth his consistent and thoughtful views on these issues. I know that is what they will always be.

6 p.m.

Mr. Epp: The minister speaks about consistent views, but that is one thing we have not received from him. He indicated two years ago that we were going to receive a report a year hence, which was in the fall of 1983, and we did not receive that report until today. That is not very consistent with his views and projections.

Along with a number of groups in Ontario, we have been consistent in asking the minister finally to take some initiative on a rent registry. Would he now be consistent with his view of at least a year ago, when he said he was waiting for the Thom report and once it came in he would implement a rent registry? The report is in today. Will the minister now indicate to the House very strongly that he will bring in immediate legislation to bring in a rent registry?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I clearly indicated in my statement that we will be implementing a rent registry, but it will be part of an overall package of proposals I expect will come forth in the spring.

It is very strange. If we bring in something one piece at a time, we know exactly what the members opposite will say, "Piecemeal is the only way they can deal with things." We are saying clearly and unequivocally that we accept the concept of a rent registry, and it will be part of a process that will lead to the introduction of legislation, as I see it, next spring.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, the minister has had the report since August—some press reports say since April, but others say since August, and I guess it is August—and he has had two full months to study the report and its recommendations.

In his statement, when he refers to six major recommendations of the commission of inquiry, he says he has to assess the recommendation with respect to the removal of the six per cent maximum. He has only qualified support for the extension of Bill 198, the five per cent ceiling on financial pass-through. He has qualified support for the proposal on costs no longer borne. He says he has to defer consideration of the \$750 per month exemption. He says he cannot make a decision yet on the proposal for a rent registry.

At best, to be charitable, he has given a very qualified reception to the major recommendations of this commission of inquiry after two full months of study. Does that indicate that this Hallowe'en pumpkin is greeted by the same kind of disappointment by the minister as it is by representatives of tenants' associations and members of the opposition?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I would hope repetition was not always necessary, but it seems that in the member's case it often is. I know that is part of the to-and-fro that goes on. I do this and you do that.

I have said many times very frankly that the letter to me from the commissioner, who is sitting in the gallery, was dated August 16. Shortly after that or about that same time, rough drafts of the first cuts were given to me for perusal. It is my understanding that up until some time in the third week of September the commissioner was working on correction of the proofs. The final copies were received no earlier than 10 days ago and preparations have been under way for tabling today.

By the way, that went smoothly and without a hitch. There was no problem. Everything went just dandy, and I want to thank the members for that.

The one thing that is clear and evident in my statement and in everything I have done as minister with respect to rent review is that I want to move and have continued to move to take the steps necessary to refine it and to make it as fair and equitable a system as it can be. That is saying something since it is a pretty good system the way it is now.

Mr. McClellan: May I ask the minister whether he does not share my disappointment about the way the commission of inquiry has dealt with the question of retroactivity on the issue of illegal rents? What is the minister's response to the recommendation that, in effect, says only the last three years of illegal rents charged by landlords against their tenants will come under the purview of rent review?

In other words, all the millions of dollars which have been stolen from tenants, except for that stolen in the last three years, will be somehow grandfathered in, according to the recommendation of the commission of inquiry. Is that a recommendation this government is prepared to entertain seriously for one second?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: A careful perusal of the report will not reveal the kind of harshness the member is displaying on this occasion. I have noticed that on other occasions he does the same thing. If one reads it, one will see that someone is thoughtfully trying to say: "Now in most things there is a limitation of action period. Perhaps that is a process that should be looked at here. For the sake of discussion, let us consider whether there should be a three-year limitation of action period."

This government is not saying it is going to accept that, or whatever, today or tomorrow. That will be part of the process of evaluation which will be carried out by the interministerial committee and subsequently by recommendations going from this minister to his colleagues for consideration.

Mr. McClellan: There are so many inadequacies in the commission of inquiry, and I mean this quite sincerely. I am just profoundly disappointed at the number of issues that were not even addressed.

I am not sure which ones to pick by way of a supplementary question, but from my shopping list let me ask the minister about the failure of the commission to deal with any mandatory disclosure of ownership and financing. If there was any lesson to be learned from the Cadillac Fairview ripoff, it was that the modus operandi of these kinds of ripoff artists is the failure of this government to enact disclosure legislation so it can determine whether ownership and financing arrangements are arm's-length transactions or whether they are simple frauds.

What does the minister think about the failure of the commission of inquiry to deal with that issue? Does he intend to allow section 93 of the legislation to remain a dead letter? Is he going to be serious about empowering the commission to determine whether sales of buildings are arm's-length transactions or whether they are flips and frauds?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I understand that member's role is to be critical and he will pick out areas he feels he is justified in criticizing.

My recollection, again from having read the report through once, was that the commissioner said it should be possible for counsel or individuals of senior stature involved in the businesses to file affidavits as to the bona fides of the transaction, but then in the discourse on the issue, he went on to say very clearly that should not in any way take away from the right of the commission to explore, to get down to the real nature of the transaction.

I suggest to the member today that is exactly what is happening in one of the cases that is before tribunal, where one of the parties to a number of these actions has been subpoenaed by that tribunal so it can get down to the very basis of the action and real merits of the case, which is what they are bound to do.

Contrary to what the member is complaining about, the commissioner indicates that power in the commission should remain, but we should also give consideration, if we accept that

recommendation, to accepting affidavits with respect to bona fides from senior personnel. Again, I am not saying that is a recommendation we will or will not accept, but clearly it is something we will review as that committee proceeds with its considerations.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, one of the concerns that has been expressed frequently by tenant groups and others is the lack of a requirement that evidence be given under oath. Is the minister sympathetic to that particular concept in the context of rent review regulation and legislation in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I know this is a partisan place we live in and the member has not had the opportunity—and I am not being critical—to review the whole chapter dealing with that. What we have to realize here is that we are dealing with an administrative tribunal. We are not trying to establish a full judicial process with all the costs inherent in that process. We are trying to make it as effective and efficient as possible.

The requirement that there be transcripts of evidence taken at each hearing would be a considerable burden to place upon the public of this province. I have not got, from my reading of the report, any suggestion that any injustices have occurred as a result of the fact that it is behaving as an administrative tribunal. If that is an honest belief the member has, then I will accept it and it will be given to the committee as part of its consideration.

WATER QUALITY

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of one of the last ministers in the House, the Minister of the Environment, who was kind enough to stay today.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, he might get a call.

Mr. Conway: This might be the stalking-horse.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Bradley: We are running out of time. Hold on.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Bradley: Can the minister explain to the House—this is the minister, by the way, who said, "Ontario drinking water is second to none in the world," and drew several laughs from the Niagara Peninsula—how he can expect his new committee, the so-called Public Interest Committee on Drinking Water Quality, to have any credibility when he insists that its meetings be held behind closed doors, as the initial session in St. Catharines was last week? Would the minister

assure us he is not going to hold future meetings behind closed doors and would he attempt to establish some credibility for this committee? I will throw in another question. What has he got to hide?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I know the member will be most pleased to hear we have absolutely nothing to hide. I attended the first meeting in St. Catharines to discuss with the committee its initial activities and some of its initial responsibilities. The member is absolutely correct in indicating that meeting was behind closed doors.

I was not aware until I arrived there that the meeting was going to be held in camera. They received absolutely no direction whatever from me personally with respect to whether the meetings were to be held behind closed doors or in public. It was the feeling of that group at the time, and I am sure the decision could be reviewed in the light of some of the comments the member has made today, that it wanted to have the initial meeting, at least, behind closed doors in an attempt to establish the foundation of the fundamental thrust of the committee itself.

As the member well knows, it is made up of a broad spectrum of interest groups, such as medical officers of health, the Canadian Environmental Law Association, Pollution Probe and Operation Clean Niagara. They are all involved in that organization. I can only tell the member we intend to have an active, open

committee that will come to grips with very important and critical drinking water quality issues.

I assure the member the process will be as open as I can possibly make it, but I am not going to direct the committee on what to do. That is not my role. I have not done that to this point, but I can encourage them at least to keep the process open.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before we leave, so that no one is under any doubt about the order of business, it is my understanding we will begin with petitions when we return and carry through with the business there.

I should also indicate that it has been agreed that the standing committee on resources development can, by unanimous consent, meet at 8 p.m., even though routine proceedings are going on, if that is agreeable.

Mr. McClellan: Will we have the 14th, 13th and 11th orders after routine proceedings?

Hon. Mr. Wells: Yes.

Mr. Speaker: Do we have the unanimous consent of the House for the committee to meet? Agreed to.

The House recessed at 6:15 p.m.

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Breauth, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L)
Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (York East PC)
Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L) Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Grossman, Hon. L. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services (York West PC)
Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
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Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, October 30, 1984
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 30, 1984

The House resumed at 8:17 p.m.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Conway moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside in order to debate a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the serious effects of the continuing community colleges strike and the provincial government's failure to reach a negotiated settlement.

Mr. Kerrio: Sounds like a reasonable debate.

Mr. Breagh: The Speaker is in trouble. He is looking in the yellow book.

Mr. Edighoffer: The member is in order.

Mr. McClellan: Let us have a long procedural wrangle.

Mr. Speaker: I think we might. I have some difficulty with this, and I will ask for some direction from the House. The standing orders very clearly state that the hour of 6 p.m. during the week or 1 p.m. on Friday is the deadline. I do not know of, nor have I been made aware of, any agreement.

Mr. Kerrio: This is a special event day.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Those fellows over there have difficulties with things like watches.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, the acerbic Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) seems to have some very strong views on the subject. I would only say that I enter the motion in accordance with the rules as I understand them.

It has been an unusual day, Mr. Speaker. I think you have been tolerant of my conduct earlier today, and I would not want to press my luck.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would not even call it luck.

Mr. Conway: The member opposite is so much more cheerful when he is clapping rather than swearing.

I would only say that my colleagues and I feel very strongly that the strike that is now well into its second week in the community colleges of this province is and must be considered a matter of

urgent and pressing concern not only to this Legislature but also to the province beyond.

There are tens of thousands of people from Mount Forest to Pakenham who are very seriously in jeopardy because this strike is going on, and I know my friends the member for Mississauga South (Mr. Kennedy) and the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson) are as concerned as I am that this matter be resolved at the earliest opportunity and at the bargaining table.

It is in that spirit that I would move, pursuant to standing order 34(a), the motion for this emergency debate. I am concerned to know what particular activity the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) has been engaged in with respect to resolving this strike. I understand that in recent hours she has indicated—

Mr. Speaker: I think you are starting to debate a motion that I have not really decided is in order yet.

Mr. Conway: My only point is that, given the extraordinary nature of today's timetable—

Mr. Speaker: I heard exactly what you said and I appreciate what you are saying.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, if I may try to be helpful, I think the purpose of the standing order—

Interjections.

Mr. McClellan: Well, I can try.

Mr. Kennedy: That is a switch.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: The purpose of standing order 34(b) is to limit debate on an emergency debate to one sitting, not having anticipated the kind of thing that happened this afternoon, obviously. It might be helpful if I suggested that we could proceed by unanimous consent to have the emergency debate argument this evening, and then it will be up to the House to decide whether the emergency debate proceeds. I think that is a reasonable suggestion.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I must agree with the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) that the intent of the standing order obviously is that the debate be brought forward by any honourable

member under the rules before we enter the orders of the day, and that is the point we have achieved in the business of the House today.

If after you hear the arguments put by the three parties it is agreed that the debate should proceed, presumably the members of the House will have an opportunity to discuss this urgent and important matter until adjournment close to 10:30 p.m. That is a reasonable time for the debate on a subject of this nature, and I hope your well-known flexibility will allow you to interpret the rules in that way.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would concur with the arguments that were put forward. It is quite obvious that standing order 34 was not written to account for the kind of afternoon we had this afternoon. Since we have not reached orders of the day yet, this is the proper place for this motion to be put, and I certainly have no objection to going forward now with the arguments concerning whether we should have the debate.

Mr. Speaker: Quite obviously we have unanimous consent.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: No? Do we have unanimous consent or not? Agreed?

Agreed to.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker—

Mr. Speaker: Just a minute now. I would just like to point out to all honourable members—

Mr. Nixon: Do not give us point four.

Mr. Speaker: No. I was wondering what you were pointing to.

Obviously, it has been an unusual day until now and, with unanimous consent, of course, the debate can proceed. I just want to advise all honourable members that the motion was received in my office in time and I am prepared to listen for up to five minutes to each of the parties represented as to why the ordinary business of the House should be set aside.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate your judgement in that connection and the very helpful intervention of the government House leader. As my friend the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) says very wisely and properly, the very good counsel of our friend the member for Bellwoods was also appreciated.

I do not think there is any member in this chamber, on either side of this aisle, who would not agree at least from the point of view of local representation that this is a matter of urgent and pressing necessity. If the member for High

Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) and the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) are anything like myself or my colleagues, their offices are besieged these days with calls from students, parents, spouses, employers and others in the community about what is happening with this.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Not from the employers.

Mr. Conway: The Minister of Colleges and Universities says, "Not from the employers." I must say that is not true in all cases. There is great concern in Ontario about what is happening as a result of this now two-week-old strike. It is very unfortunate if there is anyone in this chamber, particularly the honourable lady who serves as Minister of Colleges and Universities, who may believe that somehow this is not a matter of urgent and pressing concern.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have never implied that; that leaves me absolutely speechless.

Mr. Conway: Well what did the minister mean?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Renfrew North address his remarks to the chair, please.

Mr. Conway: The interjections of the honourable lady are not always easy to understand.

Mr. Speaker: Interjections are out of order.

Mr. Conway: I appreciate that, Mr. Speaker, but I hope you will restrain our colleague.

There is grave concern in the community about what is being done to resolve this matter. We have now seen more than 13 days pass since this strike unhappily began. We have seen the Council of Regents, that emanation of the Ontario government, spend thousands of the taxpayers' dollars in recent days taking out advertisements in the print media of this province, thereby not helping to resolve the matter or to create a condition of conciliation at the negotiating table.

We have heard the minister in this chamber and outside indicate that it is her hope both sides will come together and that, failing that, there are contingencies. My leader and my colleagues have asked what those contingencies are, because believe me when I say there are this day thousands of young people and not-so-young people in this community college system of ours who are in real jeopardy with respect to their programs, and in some cases with respect to the employment that lies just beyond.

I have to believe that all members are anxious to know exactly what the current state of the strike is. I believe the minister herself has

indicated that in past situations she has intervened. I think she has referred to a difficulty in the Sudbury schools three or four years ago when, at a critical juncture, she intervened to lend the considerable weight and prestige of her office to the resolution of that difficulty.

I must ask what plans the minister has now to involve herself personally to create a better condition for the resolution of this strike at the bargaining table. I have to believe that all members would agree with me that our first, second and third choices would be for the speedy resolution of this tragic difficulty at the negotiating table. That is certainly my view. However, there can be no question that if this matter is not resolved in the near future, some other action unhappily is going to have to be contemplated. I do not want to see this strike go on any longer than it has to date.

8:30 p.m.

In recent days, the minister has indicated in this House that she has been very generous as a minister in terms of the additional support she has offered to the community colleges. My colleagues on the government side should believe that is not the view of those in the community colleges and most particularly of the teaching instructors. I ask you, Mr. Speaker, what are the current plans of this government to deal with this matter of urgent and pressing concern?

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion requesting an emergency debate with respect to the situation in the colleges across Ontario.

The first note of emergency arises out of the fact that negotiations broke down about the middle of the afternoon. The parties parted saying to each other, "Call me if there is anything new." That is where it stands after virtually two weeks of negotiations. That is where it stands after two weeks in which the minister and her ministry have acted almost as press agents for the Council of Regents and the management side of this issue. I say that advisedly.

The crisis also lies not just in the obduracy of the Council of Regents, which has said absolutely no this afternoon to any consideration of a reasonable work load arrangement, but also in the fact that at the end of two weeks there are groups of students who now find themselves hovering on the brink of the future of their own educational careers.

Of the 120,000 full-time students and the some 600,000 part-time students, there are some 15,000 in the college system who are Canada Employment and Immigration Commission stu-

dents. At first they were assured the money sustaining them in their studies was not in jeopardy. About a week ago they received a second memo indicating they could continue at what courses were in progress. They are now awaiting a third bulletin from that commission, which is looking less and less certain in terms of the message it will bring to them. They are calling us in considerable numbers and are concerned about the future of their education.

There are other students whose examinations do not rest with the colleges but with other agencies. For example, the insurance administration programs have their exams administered by other bodies. Those other bodies are saying they are not changing the date of examination regardless of the course of the studies and the problems a student may have at the moment.

The crisis we face is not just one that rests with the Council of Regents. As I intimated, the crisis and emergency trace themselves back into the ministry. The minister likes to speak of the council and the boards of the institutions as though they were autonomous, yet whenever we probe into that situation we discover the minister's hand or an official of her ministry is there sitting on a board, sitting in advisory capacity and in fact exercising immense influence on the progress of events.

It is not surprising that what we find in the council in terms of its refusal to budge on the work load issue is a refusal on the part of the minister to meet the absolutely pressing demands of the system for more teachers, more support staff and more resources. Whatever she says about the money going into the system that she has reported to us in the last day or two, she has not accounted for the fact that in three of the years in question, inflation rates accounted for at least 30 per cent of the moneys that were going into the system. Over the five years in which the major productivity study has been undertaken, student enrolment went up at least 30 per cent. In the course of that time, the actual cost of delivering a student out of the system went down by 17.3 per cent.

The statistics one faces as delivered by the minister to us as explanation for the situation just do not all stack up. This emergency debate is necessary to get at the problem and explain the problems facing the students and the overwork the faculty, on the whole, is undeniably facing. It is necessary to get at the root problem that lies within the ministry and with that minister with respect to the future of this system so that the quality of education may be maintained in the

colleges of this province and so that those students may have the best when they graduate out of this system.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the college system within the province is without doubt one of the best systems of education in applied arts and technology anywhere in the world. It is certainly the best in North America. It is so because for the past 17 years there has been strong co-operation among bodies such as the individual boards of governors of the various colleges, the administration of the various colleges, the faculty members of those colleges and the Council of Regents which is responsible for developing general policies for the colleges. That co-operative stance remained in place until this year. It is unfortunate there was a breakdown in the co-operative arrangements this year.

It is unfortunate that for the first time within the 17-year history of the college system there is a disruption of service which is severely affecting a considerable number of students in the province. Those students are made up of post-secondary and part-time students and those who are funded by the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission under the unemployment insurance program delivered by Canada Manpower or under the apprenticeship program. It is the role of the UIC and CEIC to provide the support for those students and to provide the colleges with the funds that are available for teaching the students.

We have been informed that when strikes of this sort have happened in other jurisdictions, CEIC stops the delivery of funds for tuition at the end of two weeks but continues to provide support for the sustenance of students for a considerable time. It is our information that CEIC, in support of the students, will continue to monitor this on a weekly basis from the end of this week, and will inform us regularly of its decisions in this matter.

No one is more concerned about the future education and careers of the students at the colleges than the members of government. In spite of the suggestions made by the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), although there was a cessation of discussion this afternoon, it is my understanding that both parties will return to the bargaining table with the mediator either tomorrow or Thursday and that there will be reasonable discussion of all items on the agenda.

Until now there has been discussion only about the work load matter. Nothing else has been discussed or agreed to. There are at least 12 other items that could be discussed and agreed to. If

that were done, there would be the real possibility of the best kind of settlement in this situation: a negotiated one.

The college system must work with its faculty, the faculty must work with the administration after the strike is over and each must work in support of the students. A negotiated settlement, unencumbered by the kind of partisan, political rhetoric that will likely emerge from a so-called emergency debate tonight, is probably the best solution for the students and for the future of the college system.

8:40 p.m.

Therefore, I strongly suggest that we allow the negotiation process to continue as it should with the kind of freedom for discussion of those matters within the agenda. They should not restrict discussion to one matter only and not be burdened by the kinds of statements that might be made within this House in which it would be very difficult for members on either side to remain entirely neutral.

The assignation of blame is most likely to occur as a result of such a debate and I do not think that would add anything to the negotiating process. Therefore, I ask that we continue to encourage both parties in these negotiations to meaningfully discuss those items that are to be negotiated for the settlement and to begin the process as vigorously and effectively as they possibly can, keeping in mind at all times that the future of the students is at stake in all this negotiation.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to the presentation put forward by the three honourable members—

Mr. Elston: Nevertheless.

Mr. Speaker: Now you have interrupted me. I do have some reservations because this is, in many respects, somewhat similar to an earlier motion that was put forward by the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) on October 18, if my memory serves me correctly.

The House in its wisdom at that time decided not to discuss the matter and, therefore, I find this motion is in order. The question before the House is, shall the debate proceed?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PUBLIC LIBRARIES ACT

Hon. Ms. Fish moved second reading of Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries.

Mr. Speaker: Does the minister have any remarks?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I do.

I am pleased to open debate on second reading of Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries. As members know, Bill 93 is the result of a long and very intensive consultation with the library community, municipal government and interested citizens. My colleague and predecessor, now the Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz), actually began the process in 1980 when he established the Ontario public library program review, headed by Mr. Peter Bassnett, the chief executive officer of Scarborough Public Library.

When I introduced this bill on June 4, 1984, I detailed for members of this House the extraordinary number of meetings and submissions that went into Mr. Bassnett's review, some 150 public meetings, 360 briefs and 15 task group reports. A subsequent ministry discussion paper issued on completion of the review prompted more than 350 additional responses from right across Ontario.

From the time this bill was introduced on June 4 until today, I have received an extraordinary number of letters and submissions of briefs and I have conducted several meetings with interested members on the questions related to this bill and the reaction to it. In that respect, I treat the period of time that has elapsed from first reading to the opportunity for this second reading debate tonight as a positive period of time, during which an opportunity to continue dialogue and consultation has been afforded to me, to members of the interested library and municipal communities and to citizens at large.

I am firmly of the belief that the process, through the public library review, through the responses to the ministry paper and over this past summer and fall of consideration on this bill as introduced, demonstrates, as nothing else does, the esteem in which libraries are held and the care with which the people of this province, particularly members of library boards, interested members of council or interested citizens at large, view this legislation. I hope it will establish a framework for libraries for many years down the road.

That participation does not end simply with tonight's second reading debate. I committed several months ago, and I believe this position is shared on all sides of the House, that this bill would go to a standing committee to provide for specific detailed submissions that could come before the committee in clause-by-clause consideration of this bill.

Notwithstanding that there was an opportunity to make submissions directly to me during the course of this summer, I continue to believe that referring this bill to a standing committee and permitting a formal submission and hearing process directly on clause-by-clause would be most beneficial.

Let me say, however, that on the basis of the correspondence and submissions I have received to date, I believe there are several areas in the bill that could well benefit from clarification and amendment, which would help to fine-tune the focus and intent of this bill.

I have therefore taken the perhaps somewhat unusual step of developing some draft amendments based on those submissions and reactions, which I will be prepared to move at the appropriate time in our process of consideration of this bill, which of course is not tonight. I have taken the liberty of making those amendments available to my critics and will have copies broadly available for interested members of the public and for communities that have already been in touch with me.

Let me take just a few moments to highlight some, but by no means all, of the possible areas of clarification and fine-tuning. I am sure all of us agree that libraries and library services work best and are most effective when support for the local library is firmly rooted in the community, when the library board reflects the community and when the community takes an active, full and complete interest in the library service and in the working of the board, which is so fundamental to determining a service.

To encourage what I would call a very broad community representation on library boards, I have proposed that the municipal councils appoint the members of the library board. Within this question of appointment, a couple of things are worth noting.

I have asked that at least three members of the board be appointed on the recommendation of the appropriate school board for the area. I want to make it very clear that this is a minimum requirement only. There are areas in which I would venture to say the local community may well want to have all its library board members appointed on recommendation of the school board, and I think that is just fine; there are other areas that may wish to have some members of council along with school board representatives and some members of the community at large and so forth, and that is fine.

The object here, as in so many other areas of the bill, is to provide a flexible framework that

enables the local community to assess what is appropriate for the community and to be able to apply it, setting the minimum that I believe, and I think we all believe, must happen, which is that there be at least some clear, direct representation.

But minimums are not where we leave library services; we look to maximums, and maximums result when there is strong community support: for example, when the municipalities, which are the primary funding source for the libraries, take a clear and specific interest in the needs of the libraries and of the community as identified through the library board and provide the necessary resources and financial support to enable the programs and services to be carried out.

8:50 p.m.

It is my view that it is necessary, since municipal councils are indeed the principal funding source, to make it clear that the library board will be accountable on financial matters to the municipal councils through an annual estimates process, an annual process of review on application for grant, which currently exists in most cases.

Bill 93 also provides that major capital expenditures by a board are subject to the approval of a council. I intend to amend section 24 to make it very clear that the boards retain the responsibility for handling their budgets and particularly for determining appropriate services and materials. However, I do ask that they do so within a legitimate framework of financial interest that might be expressed by a municipality during an estimates process.

I want to make very clear that the municipal council, while it has a legitimate interest in certain financial questions, is not a substitute for a library board and the existence of a library board as a separate body responsible for determining services, and particularly determining materials, will be extremely important.

I think this change will not only maintain an appropriate financial accountability, but it will also, and I think this is important, educate the municipal council to the programs and needs of its libraries. I served as a member of local council and also a member of the library board. I am only too aware of the importance of a very close working relationship between the board and the council and the desirability of increasing and expanding the knowledge on the part of municipal council of the needs of the board and of the council taking a genuine true interest in discharging its responsibility as a major funding arm for library services.

From our end, this government and my ministry have always been partners with local communities in funding library services. Our commitment was demonstrated again by the increase this year to match the funding levels on transfer payments to general municipal government. To reinforce and make clear that support will continue to be provided from the provincial government, I intend to amend section 30 so that this government's support for library services will be clear and unequivocal, and the "may" that is currently shown will be altered to read "shall."

As I said earlier, my aim in all of these matters has been to provide a flexibility in the development and delivery of library services. I think every member of this House would agree there are tremendous differences in makeup, size, resources, skills and a variety of other aspects of our communities right across this province.

Through this legislation, I am trying to afford the best possible opportunity for an appropriate structure to develop and the appropriateness to be determined by the local community. To that end, I will be introducing an amendment to section 9 to allow municipalities over 100,000 in population to increase their board size to a range of nine to 15 rather than the five to nine that had been previously stipulated.

Similarly, in response to county library boards and their councils who have indicated that a lower limit to the current range of nine to 15 board members would be preferable, I propose that we amend subsections 9(4) and 9(6) to lower the range to between seven and 15.

I would also like to clarify that municipal councils may choose to delegate the calling of a board's first meeting to the chief executive officer of the library board rather than to the clerk of the appointing council as had been contemplated in the bill as it currently stands. One of the key elements in our library system is public participation. I believe very deeply that board meetings must be open to the public and board records available for public review.

There are some very important exceptions to that which I feel are equally important. The exceptions will be intimate financial and personal matters and will include personnel issues; and what is particularly important, especially with the move to computerized technological bases, the specific detail of individual patron records will be one of the excluded aspects on public review. I will be introducing specific amendments to clarify this point, which has been raised in a number of briefs and submissions and

discussed as a point of particular concern within the library community.

As members know, when I introduced Bill 93, I undertook to ensure free access to core library services, including circulating books. Membership or administrative charges for library cards are contrary to the intent of this bill. Many libraries today, however, are dealing in a major way with more than just books. Other materials, such as videodiscs and tapes, records, films and computer software, are becoming major components of a library's basic service today. I am very sympathetic to the suggestion that these materials should be included as circulating material available to everyone free of charge.

Representatives of some libraries who have been in touch, however, have suggested they cannot initiate or maintain such services in these costly materials without some sort of additional funding, such as a user fee. I feel, therefore, that the premise of core circulating materials—books or materials that are free of the user charge—is precisely what we should be striving for, and I would like to make clear that this was my preference.

I chose in the initial introduction of this bill to confine it to books because of definitional problems and contrary advice from the library community. However, I think this area in particular is very worthy of further consideration. I would welcome the views of my colleagues and of the library community on the ways in which we might define materials so as to broaden the category of things that will be available free of a user charge.

Finally, the legislation that is before us today is designed to provide what I believe will be a practical, flexible framework that will enable communities to establish and strengthen the kind of library system and service that are most appropriate to each area. I would ask, however, that this bill not be read in isolation from the many programs, initiatives and support services that are provided directly to libraries in a library community by activities of my ministry that do not, of course, show in the legislation.

These activities are extremely important because the legislation itself does not provide the full picture. I am referring to initiatives such as the library co-operative automation program, the Escarpment Telecommunications Pilot, our provincial co-ordinators in the areas of French-language, multicultural and multilingual services and library services for disabled persons and native people. These and many other programs

are assisting Ontario's libraries to meet the challenges of the information era.

The changes we are addressing through Bill 93 are designed to respect and maintain what I believe has been a very proud tradition of a first-class library system in this province. I think there has been tremendous assistance from and active involvement on the part of the library community in the development of this bill. I know it will continue as we proceed into standing committee and deputations. I am confident that the results will be a bill that provides the kind of dynamic and helpful framework that, as I said earlier, will really set the stage for a much strengthened library service in this province.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, I must inform you that I was recently asked to be the new critic for this ministry. When I received the background material for this legislation, I found it quite extensive. I must say I found it almost impossible to review it all in the time I had. I almost thought I was in the former committee concerned with the Astra/Re-Mor affair when I saw the piles of material that came across my desk.

However, not for my own sake but for the sake of the people in the Ontario Library Association, the Ontario Library Trustees Association, the Association of Municipalities of Ontario and so on, I am glad to be informed that the minister will be sending this bill for further consideration to standing committee and then, of course, back to committee in the Legislature.

9 p.m.

As the minister stated, this has been a long process. I believe it commenced in 1980 when the now minister of Tourism and Recreation had responsibility for libraries. He made a great statement to the Ontario Provincial Library Council, stating that the government had a new vision and that this would take place in the study that would come before people in the province.

I must also thank the minister for sending me copies of her proposed amendments, which we will be discussing in committee. Some of the changes seem somewhat trivial, but I am certain that some of the items will be of some consequence and should dispel some of the fears of the boards.

As I came into the House tonight, I was handed a letter from the president of the Ontario Library Trustees Association and I thought it might be helpful to have it on record. It is a letter sent to the minister. I would like to quote from the letter.

"I have been directed by the trustees of the Ontario Library Trustees Association present on

the occasion of the annual meeting of the association held in Ottawa on October 26 to write to you in response to the information we have received that, since you have received only 40 submissions re Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries, you perceive that few people seem to have concerns about the bill.

"The members present expressed the view in the form of a motion that we should point out to you that a brief to you from a regional board or from either the Ontario Library Association or from our own association misrepresents the views of many boards and many individuals within those units and should not be perceived as a single brief.

"We are of the view that many people in the library world do, indeed, have deep concerns about the bill as it was presented at first reading in June and we wish to have an opportunity to so respond at an appropriate committee hearing."

"Margaret Coburn, president, Ontario Library Trustees Association."

I want again to stress that there are quite a number of people throughout the province who have considerable concerns.

I have received quite a number of letters from different boards and I felt the best way was for me to put this on record. I think this letter from the London Public Library board really sets out many of the concerns of many of the boards and associations.

This letter was written on June 14, soon after the legislation was introduced.

"At its meeting held on June 13, 1984, the London Public Library board considered Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries, and its impact on the management and services of the London Public Libraries and Museums.

"It is the board's opinion that Bill 93 should not receive immediate second and third readings, but rather should be referred to a committee of the Legislature for study. It would be most unfortunate if hasty approval now negated almost four years of study by not only the ministry, but also hundreds of interested citizens across Ontario.

"Many of the excellent proposals for a new Public Libraries Act are extremely positive, but amendments should be considered in a few areas noted below."

I want to denote these areas because I believe they include many of the difficulties that have been expressed by other groups.

"Since a copy of the bill was made available to us only during the first week of June, time has been not sufficient for a complete evaluation.

"Section 9(1): It is not clear how a municipality establishes the composition of a board. If a new library were being established under section 3(1), it could be done at that time. Otherwise, it would appear the composition could be changed every three years or even more often.

"Subsection 9(2): The method proposed to include school board representation appears to be both cumbersome and inefficient. If a school board has sufficient interest in the public library to make recommendations, surely it has enough credibility to make the appointments itself.

"Subsection 10(3): This clause does not provide for continuity on the board, a matter of concern.

"Subsection 14(1): It is not clear why the clerk of the municipality should call the first meeting of the board. If it is a corporation with a secretary responsible for the board's records, surely the clerk should notify the secretary as to the appointments, who would then call the first meeting as established in the board's organizational bylaws. This clause could lead to difficulties if the clerk determined not to call a meeting or did not liaise with the board's secretary. The clause complicates a rather simple procedure.

"Subsection 15(2): It is a matter of great concern that not only is the chief executive officer not a professional librarian, but no reference is made to a librarian in the whole act. Is it the intent of the ministry to permit the operation of large library systems without any expertise on staff?

"Section 18: It is unreasonable to expect council to deal with expenses of the board members. It is also somewhat of an insult to responsible citizens who serve on library boards to require them to seek an allowance from council. Since no mention is made with respect to remuneration, it is assumed board members serve without pay. This matter should be clearly stated.

"Section 20d: If 'special services' is meant to include art galleries and museums, the term should be defined so that there is no misunderstanding on the matter. It is important that the act be clear, so that any board that operates such a service or a community information service is eligible for the provincial funding normally available to independent authorities.

"Subsection 24(2): The provision that council has the power to impose 'any terms and conditions' on the board when estimates are approved is so broad that it makes the board's role not only difficult, but to a large extent meaningless. It would appear the legislation

makes the board responsible, but at the same time removes most of its authority.

"Section 28: Although the section on inspection of records is taken from the old act, surely it should be clear it does not include those financial and personal matters noted in subsection 16(3) which a board determines are confidential.

"On a further matter of confidentiality, a clause should be included with respect to patron records on the use of library materials, which should remain confidential except under due process of law.

"Subsection 33(2): The composition of an Ontario library service board may be so large it will become inefficient and very expensive. At the same time, the difference in the appointed terms of members of a municipal library board and an Ontario library service board may lead to uncertainty. It is also important to note that without some form of proportionate representation the large municipalities within the Ontario library system area are not adequately represented.

"We feel that in the interest of clarity subsection 21(2) of the existing act should be enacted as a subsection of the new section 23 to ensure that boards can recover value of lost or damaged articles.

"There are a number of statements where definitions are required. For instance, subsection 29(1) refers to a 'local service board' without any indication as to its meaning."

Those are some of the concerns listed by the chairman of the London public library board. I think many of the concerns are spelled out clearly.

9:10 p.m.

I know the councils and the Association of Municipalities of Ontario met very recently—I believe it was in Orillia and Barrie on two different occasions—and went over this bill. I do not want to go into details because they have not submitted a brief, but I am certain they are going to prepare something for the committee when it meets. I know they appreciate the opportunity to be able to present their brief.

There is one part of the legislation that concerns me. I noticed in one of the backgrounders, which I believe was prepared by the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture and issued on June 4, 1984, one of the comments stated: "Nonparticipating municipalities will have the option of joining the county at a later date. Cities and separated towns will also be allowed to join the county system if they so desire."

I agree with this. I am concerned about the first sentence which says, "Nonparticipating municipalities will have the option of joining the county at a later date." I hope that option is left open for them to make that decision themselves. When I read subsections 7(1), (3) and (4), I believe that is what it means, but I hope the minister will clarify that for me.

The minister made reference to section 23, which states, "A board shall not make a charge for admission to a public library or for use in the library of the library's materials." This seems fairly specific. However, it may be possible to clarify some of those services where charges can be made and to be somewhat more explicit.

The other day I was reading over an interview the minister had with a writer in *Focus*, the magazine of the Ontario Library Association. She said in her interview that she expected greater co-operation in the future. I hope that is correct. When I was going through some of my material, I noticed there was a letter from the board of the Lake Erie Regional Library System, which encompasses Elgin, Middlesex and Oxford. In that letter this board was reporting to the minister as follows:

"I must report to you, Mr. Minister, that this board has been fully informed of the operations and services administered by our director and staff and that we have approved their actions and advised them of our decisions on a regular basis. We have always assumed that our director is answerable to your ministry's branch through this board.

"However, during the past several months, a number of communications have been sent to the ministry, directly to the director of our system. Very few were addressed to the board. These letters have dealt with administrative measures such as regional travel, hiring of staff, detailed vehicle leasing and capital expenditure. In one of them, also addressed to the director, the ministry questioned this board's long-standing support for automation of library services in our region."

I will not go on, but it appears to me there may have been some lack of coordination or communication between the ministry and the boards. I do not want to take up too much time, but part II of this bill creates some problem for me. I know it creates a greater problem for many of my colleagues, who, I am sure, will want to speak particularly on this section. It sets out or establishes Ontario library service areas. In other words, I understand it reduces the number of areas from 14 to eight.

Mr. Eakins: That is regional government.

Mr. Haggerty: There are going to be some political plums there.

Mr. Edighoffer: If you do not mind, Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring out this report that was commissioned and presented to the government back in November 1975. I know that is a few years ago, but there is one particular section I would like to read regarding delivery of services to the public:

"To make the most effective use of the resources available, ministries have a degree of flexibility in their choice of program delivery mechanisms. To provide and maintain the necessary level of service to the public, they can draw not only on their own resources but also on those of the agencies, boards and commissions that report to them as well as independent nonprofit agencies. In addition, they may contract some work out to the private sector.

"To provide better local service to the public, program delivery and decision-making have been extensively decentralized to regional offices across the province. This approach may improve the level of services provided, but regional offices are expensive to establish and maintain. Before any new regional offices are put into operation, their costs must be weighed carefully against the expected benefits to ensure that expenditures are justified.

"The committee recommends that before further regionalization of the delivery of public services is permitted, a careful and thorough analysis be undertaken of the associated costs and benefits to ensure that expenditures of this type are fully justified."

I thought it was most interesting that the then Treasurer, Darcy McKeough, seemed to accept this. At one point, I believe, regional government slowed down generally; it really did not just take place once in this report. I can go back to page 206 under "Proposals for Future Planning." I will not go into it in detail, but one recommendation says: "If in the future it is decided that additional restructuring should occur, a prime prerequisite is the achievement of cost savings rather than expansion of services." I hope the minister can back up her plans for larger regions with a thorough analysis of the associated costs and benefits.

I am also concerned about this section dealing with appointments to the Ontario library service areas. I have to ask the minister whether she can explain, when replying later this evening or on some other occasion, if I am correct in understanding subsection 33(2), which says:

"A board shall consist of:

"(a) one member appointed by the public library board for every municipality within the Ontario library service area that has a population of 15,000 or more;

"(b) one member appointed by the county library board for every county within the Ontario library service area."

I will not read the first section of clause (c).

Mr. Foulds: Go ahead.

Mr. Edighoffer: Shall I go ahead?

Mr. Foulds: Go ahead.

Mr. Edighoffer: I will go down to subclause c(ii):

"(c) if the number of members appointed under clauses (a) and (b) is...(ii) nine or more, a number of additional members appointed by the minister that does not exceed one less than the number appointed under clauses (a) and (b)."

9:20 p.m.

As I understand that, and I was just looking in my own region, if there are nine municipalities and 15 library boards, there would be 24 appointments. Subclause 33(2)(c)(ii) means the minister could also appoint one fewer than that number, which would be 23.

Mr. Piché: Now that they are all confused, what are you getting at? I am totally confused.

Mr. Edighoffer: I thought the member would be. That is understandable.

What I would like to know from the minister is the maximum number of appointments she expects to make in regions set out in the new proposal.

I am going to support this legislation because there are two further steps: standing committee and committee of the whole House. As the minister informed us when she introduced this bill, there are some amendments she will be presenting to the committee. I feel I have to agree with the legislation because of the consultation that has taken place over the last four years. We have finally come to this stage.

On a few occasions other ministers have introduced such legislation and sent it to standing committee as a draft bill. That was not done in this case. However, I hope it will be a reasonably lengthy debate, because there are quite a number of groups that want to make proposals.

I will support the legislation on second reading, with very great hesitations about part II. I am certainly not in favour of further regionalization unless the minister can show me particular savings. I look forward to an open discussion in committee on this legislation.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to debate Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries. I would like to say to the minister and to the Liberal Party that this party will be opposing this legislation on second reading. I am going to try as best I can in the time available to me, which I guess will be until I finish, to outline the reasons why we are going to oppose this legislation.

The government had not intended to be dealing with this legislation at this time. It intended all of us to be on the hustings on October 9 and to be involved in an election campaign. After the election campaign was over, and if by chance they had formed another majority government—who knows?—they would have brought in this bill and got rid of the library boards across this province. That is what the intent of this bill is. It makes library boards advisory bodies of the councils in the province.

I am not interested in going into the details of this bill clause by clause. We will have plenty of opportunity to do that in committee of the whole House and in the committee this bill will go to. What I want to talk about is principles. One principle is that the government believes municipal councils ought to have total and absolute control over library boards in this province. That is there in every clause of the bill.

It was there prior to October 8, prior to the possible calling of an election. When an election was not called, the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture began to scurry about trying to read the many briefs that were sent to the minister after the first reading of this bill in June, to see what the concerns of these people were. What were the concerns of the Ontario Library Association? What were the concerns of the London library board? What were the concerns of the Etobicoke library board, the Toronto Public library board, St. Catharines library board and so on.

Mr. Foulds: Thunder Bay.

Mr. Grande: Thunder Bay, up in northern Ontario. The boards have a tremendous number of concerns, which I hope I will have time to outline.

The point I am trying to make is that the government was not interested in dealing with this piece of legislation until after an election. The ministry was caught when this legislation came through and it began to scramble to present some amendments, at the wrong time in the debate, of course, to try to defuse the issues that people have been talking to the minister about since June 1984. I am going to try to put forward

those issues, but in terms of principles not in terms of clause by clause.

People, library boards, trustees and professional librarians are concerned that councils will have the ultimate authority. Their concern is that the library boards are not going to be performing the function they have performed in the past.

The Free Libraries Act was instituted about 100 years ago, and no major changes have been made to that act. The consultation process the minister has been talking about has been going on for three and a half to four years, since 1980. Obviously, the government has not been listening. How else do we explain the fact that this very evening we received a letter, which the critic of the Liberal Party mentioned as well, from the Ontario Library Trustees Association, saying: "Hey, Madam Minister, do not think only those few submissions you have received are the total concerns people across this province have about this bill. There are a lot more"?

I do not think I should take the time of the House to put into the record the letter the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer) has already presented. The Ontario Library Trustees Association is very concerned that the views of the library community have been put forward but that the minister has not listened to them. Through the amendments the minister is providing she is beginning to say, "Look, I am listening;" but in ways that will not affect the fundamental aspect of this bill, which is to give control of the library boards to municipal councils.

9:30 p.m.

The first principle of the bill is authority versus autonomy. Are the library boards going to be autonomous bodies, as they have been in the past 100 years in this province, or are they going to be merely advisory bodies to municipal councils? I suggest to the minister that there are a tremendous number of dangers in taking away the autonomy the library boards have been enjoying over the past many years.

The Ontario Library Association put it very nicely when it talked about the statute in Alberta. The guide to the Alberta library legislation states, "Council should have the power to decide how much money a board will receive, but not how it is spent."

Because in her former role the minister was a municipal politician who happened to be sitting on the Toronto library board, I am sure she understands and brings to this Legislature a municipal council bias on the situation. Basically, the danger in the extreme is that a municipal

council will say to the library board, "You as the library board cannot buy these titles to put on your shelf; otherwise, we will cut that item from your budget."

The minister can try to change the section that says, "The amount of the board's estimates that is approved by the council, subject to any terms and conditions the council imposes, shall be adopted by the board and shall be paid to the board out of the moneys appropriated for it."

That is where the power lies, with the municipal council. I want to point out to the minister there is tremendous danger there. She can choose to go in that direction, but she will do so without the support of this party. This party believes the hundreds of people on municipal library boards are doing a job on a voluntary basis and do not need to be told by councils how to spend the money allocated for library board budgets.

Everybody understands and accepts the principle that councils and library boards ought to work very closely together. There is not one line in any of the briefs that says, "There is absolutely no way we want anything to do with council." They understand the council provides about 80 per cent of the funding and therefore council should have an input. Basically they are saying, "Let the council approve the estimates of a board, but once the council does that, then the library board ought to be deciding how that money is spent."

Part of the cultural aspect of this province lies with its libraries. I very seriously suggest to the minister not to tamper with that approach, which has been working well during the past 100 years in Ontario. If the minister has any reason to suggest why that approach is no longer usable or is somehow being subverted, she should bring us the evidence and tell us where it is happening. If she does not have the evidence, then she should leave it as it is.

Another principle in this legislation that disturbs me greatly is in section 23. The principle here is that library clients or patrons who use the libraries can only borrow books from the library or "use reference and information services as the board considers practicable."

This is back to the 1940s. The library community and the library system of this province have moved far ahead. We cannot go back to the 1940s. Libraries no longer deal just with books; libraries deal with films, film strips, videotapes and computer software. What is the minister doing here? What she is saying is: "Let us downgrade the standards that the libraries of

this province have achieved over the past many years. Let us develop a core of services that every library must provide."

What happens is that the core she is developing is a core that libraries were providing 30 years ago, and now she wants us to go backwards. She wants the library community in Ontario to return to the 1940s. I think this daft step backwards can only mean that the government is interested in making sure there are tremendous cutbacks and underfunding in the library system.

I really think the minister should listen to professional librarians and trustees who, as I said before, are there on a voluntary basis and stop this fee-for-service kick she is on. If she thinks an individual who walks off the street, goes into a library and wants to borrow a cassette ought to pay a fee, she should say so. She should not just say an individual can go to a library and borrow only a book and that is it, and that there should be no payment for a library card.

That kind of situation in section 23 has to be, at best, changed radically. As far as I am concerned, she should take a look at the library boards wherever the highest standards of library service are provided and then provide the funding to other libraries across the province to achieve those standards. In other words, provide challenges for people in this province. Do not throw us back to the 1940s, the prehistoric times of library services.

The Etobicoke Public Library board basically has said this very same thing to you.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member should be reminded that he speaks through the chair to any other honourable member in the House.

Mr. Grande: Through you, Mr. Speaker, the Etobicoke Public Library says—

Mr. Foulds: That is so hard, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Samis: What about the member for Cochrane North, too? Are you listening?

Mr. Piché: Yes. I am getting an education right now.

Mr. Grande: You certainly are.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think I have that quote from the library board, but basically every public library board whose brief I have had occasion to read, and any kind of correspondence to me or to this party, has said we should be talking about library materials and specifying the kinds of library materials that should be free to the public. We should not downgrade the standards.

That is the kind of thing this party is about. We want to improve standards, we want to improve

access to our libraries for the people in Ontario; we do not want to downgrade and cut back.

9:40 p.m.

The next issue I want to mention briefly, because I am sure that in committee we are going to have plenty of opportunity, is another issue that is felt without exception by everyone in the library community. Why is it that school boards can no longer appoint trustees to public library boards? Why is it that school boards have to recommend to councils and then council makes a decision in terms of who is going to be on that? Basically, they are saying the school board ought to appoint directly to the library board, whether it be the separate school board or the public school board, depending on which board has the majority of electors.

That makes sense because, after all, libraries in this province perform not just a recreational function in terms of recreational reading but they also perform an educational function so the board needs to have people who understand the needs of the school population. Basically, from what I have been told, and I did not know this, the public library trustees appointed by the school boards are some of the most hard-working members of library boards.

Why is there this total and complete obsession on the government's part with eliminating school boards from appointing trustees on public library boards? Why is it of such major, earth-shaking importance that municipal councils have to have the total control?

Basically, I want to talk about funding and take a look at the library board funding by this government, even though I understand it is providing only 20 per cent of the funds to library boards. Its record has been dismal to say the least.

The government is talking about per capita funding, which right now is \$2.15. If one takes a look at the budgets between the years 1977 and 1981, we are talking about 4.5 per cent increases, when in 1981 alone inflation was 12.4 per cent. We are talking about meeting inflation, especially in the printing business, the printing industry, in the book publishing industry.

Inflation in the price of books has skyrocketed during the last three or four years. We have a provincial government that is providing to the library boards three and four per cent increases, and not on a yearly basis either, because the per capita grant is usually frozen for two or three years in a row and then it is increased by four or five per cent when inflation has gone up eight, 10 or 12 per cent.

In other words, the idea is certainly there that the government of this province wants to rid itself of its responsibilities and commitment to funding public library boards in this province.

Of course, we know through this bill that the intent of the ministry was that the ministry "may" make grants out of consolidated revenue to the library boards. It may make grants.

I am glad that a couple of weeks ago I went across the floor—briefly mind you—and said to the minister: "What is with this 'may' stuff? What is this? Are you trying to get out of funding the libraries in this province?" The minister, to her credit, said, "I will look into it and then we will see what we can do about it." Now she will bring in an amendment at the proper time to change "may" fund to "will" fund.

However, to go back to my original premise, this is only occurring now because the election was not called on October 9. If we had had an election and this bill were debated after the election, we would not have seen any amendments whatsoever to this legislation.

I want to say to the minister that on the principles to which I am referring—namely, the principles of access to libraries and library materials—we want to improve the standards, not decrease them. Section 23 of the act will have to be changed. Maybe the minister will do some thinking between now and the time we go to committee with respect to how to change and define it.

I refute the minister's premise that during the committee hearings we or the library community are going to be defining "materials." As the minister knows, the problem is that some libraries charge for certain services and others do not charge for a particular service, and she will not get a consensus on that.

What I am trying to say is that there ought to be provincial standards to have every person in Ontario who wants to use a library board have access to library books, services, materials and the programs libraries set out.

I was suggesting that since the minister was for a time on the board of the Toronto Public Library, she would know the kinds of literacy programs the library boards have set up. Some of us talk and try to impress on the Minister of Education that we should have literacy programs in this province, and the libraries are beginning to do something such as that.

What is probably happening is that, with the underfunding we are talking about, we are giving municipal councils a tremendous amount of power that is awesome, as far as I am concerned,

and dangerous to the library system in this province. What is going to happen is that those services are going to be cut back or restricted tremendously.

I say to the minister and to members of my caucus representing northern Ontario that I wish I had some time to talk about library boards in northern Ontario. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), if he is able to be here, considering his other duties in committee, will certainly tell stories as to how those library boards rely on interlibrary loans for people to have access to materials. There is a charge of \$8 or \$9 for a book for a three-week period.

He would tell the House that librarians in northern Ontario have said, "There is absolutely no way that I am going to go to a conference in Toronto because I cannot afford it out of my own pocket, out of the money that I earn." There is a subsidy. However, who pays for the hotels and who pays for 25 per cent of the transportation costs?

If the minister wants to hear people from northern Ontario, in this case from the library boards, perhaps she should go up there and make herself available to the people and listen to their concerns.

9:50 p.m.

When I hear that a person in northern Ontario has to pay \$8 to have a book for three weeks, I say those services for sure have to be part of the free access I was talking about. There is absolutely no way that can go on in Ontario in 1984.

I want to come to the end of my initial remarks—

Mr. Breagh: Do not do that.

Mr. Samis: No.

Mr. Grande: Even though my colleagues are encouraging me to go on, I feel I do not need to speak at length.

I was interested in letting the House know the position of the New Democratic Party on these issues and basically on three policy directions, and this bill goes in opposition to those three policy directions; namely, the policy direction of authority versus autonomy of library boards, the policy direction of free access to library material for everybody in Ontario, and underfunding and cutback in services. With the kind of funding this government provides to libraries, it is no wonder they would want to push them over to becoming municipal responsibilities.

With those remarks, I am looking forward, first of all, to my colleagues taking part in the second reading debate. Second, I am looking

forward to the committee hearings that are going to be held.

Another point on the committee hearings is that I hope the minister will provide transportation costs for the people in northern Ontario and other areas of this province who may want to come to Toronto for the hearings and will not be able to afford it.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to rise and speak on Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries. The bill substantially revises the Public Libraries Act.

I would like to bring to the minister's attention the fact that the library system in Ontario is much improved in the last 10 years, and I would like to refer specifically to the region of Haldimand-Norfolk. Libraries at one time were sort of a forgotten thing and they deteriorated to a considerable extent, but in the past few years we have had a lot of input from the public locally and we now have a very good system. As this bill is making some major changes, I would like to bring to the attention of the minister some of the concerns of the library board in that area.

One concern is that we are going to a bigger region. I think the headquarters for the library in our area has always been St. Catharines, and now it is being directed to Hamilton and taking in a much larger area. I question whether we are going in the right direction. I feel it is going to make it more difficult to have access to the services.

One of the complaints relayed to me is the fact that where they had a service where they distributed the books on a regular basis to each individual library, I understand they are taking that away and now distributing to the central areas.

I will give some examples of the library services we have. We have in Simcoe a major improvement where they have taken an old jail and made it an excellent facility, along with the town hall, which incidentally was an old courthouse, and it is now the focal point of the downtown area of Simcoe. The elected people and the people on the library board deserve a lot of credit for their dedication and foresight in going ahead with this project, which is a major project. Incidentally, I believe it will be open in the next week or so and it is certainly going to be an asset to the municipality.

Dunnville is another area that opened a new library only in the last six months, and it was a very important issue to the local council. When the council made the decision to go ahead, it was a major expenditure. As a matter of fact, some of

the local politicians paid heavily—they were not re-elected—because they made the decision to update that particular facility. It is excellent. It is going to serve that community well, it is going to be used for many generations and it is in a working position.

We also have smaller areas such as Caledonia, Cayuga, Selkirk, Port Rowan, Delhi and Port Dover. They all serve their community well, but they still need some specific attention, such as the delivery of updated materials, books and other services that they provide on a regular basis.

There was a concern with extending the area to a much larger area and the fact that their budget was being cut back and the service was not being applied. I hope the minister will give consideration to this because small area municipalities deserve that assistance so they can keep first-rate libraries. The demand for and use of libraries have increased according to the service that is provided. I hope this bill will continue to encourage that particular use.

Again, in the rural areas, where unemployment is perhaps running higher than it is in other parts of Ontario, the library does provide cheap recreation and learning ability and it is being used more and more.

I hope the minister will consider this. Instead of going larger, we should be going back to a regional library in the region of Haldimand-Norfolk and perhaps in other municipalities in Ontario, which I am sure would be more beneficial, if it were centralized within the region and going in that direction. I see the minister and the government are not going in that direction; they are going to larger areas. Perhaps we are going a step backward instead of a step forward.

I want to go on record as indicating we have made definite improvements in the library service to many parts of Ontario. I think we could encourage this still further by listening to local input for better service in the future.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I want to participate briefly in the debate this evening.

A couple of things bother me a bit. First, this is the first major piece of legislation introduced by this minister. It was to have been her great initiative to resolve some long-standing problems in the library system, but it strikes me that it is flawed severely in its presentation. She made reference in her opening remarks this evening to some substantive changes that are going to be proposed by the ministry when the bill goes to committee for hearings.

I noted the changes and I think it is too bad that a bill that was introduced in the Legislature just last spring is now going to be altered by the ministry before it proceeds with it. I say this because I think this is always the hallmark that somebody has not done his homework before the bill is presented. The ministry presented a piece of legislation that was flawed initially. Before it even gets through second reading, which is the debate in principle, the ministry is already proposing amendments.

It has been my experience here that this is a bad sign. It means that one gets things off on the wrong foot, that the ministry's own bureaucrats are admitting they fouled up before they even drafted the legislation. That is hardly the way to begin what is really an ambitious scheme such as is proposed in this legislation.

10 p.m.

Most members know librarians and people who serve on library boards and people who are interested in library services. They are hardly a revolutionary lot, but there appears to be a hornets' nest stirred up here. I cannot recall getting phone calls from people from my library board about any other issue before. As of about six o'clock tonight, they are more than a little angry. They have spent a long time in what the minister described previously as some kind of consultative process. They thought their opinions were being respected and they have found, when the legislation was introduced, and even yet as of today, their opinions have not been respected.

As have most members in southern Ontario, in my riding we have a very good system of library services, but they have run into difficulties in the last years. They share with almost every one of the ministries, in almost every kind of service one can think of, the chronic underfunding that has gone into schools and recreational facilities. Although they were on the verge of providing new services to people, several severe crimps were put in those plans by the fact that they did not have secured funding from the ministry to expand their programs.

In the last few years they have put together programs that address what might be called nontraditional library services, that is, they are into much more than just providing books for people. In my community they have attempted to expand library services from one central library source out into the community. They use bookmobiles and they have a great many facilities other than just books out of the library itself.

They have attempted to belong to a regional library system where they can trade back and forth different types of materials and make available on a broader basis a better selection of materials.

They have been faced with continuing chronic problems around getting funding and approval to provide different levels and kinds of service. I know many people who are very serious about the provision of library services are beginning to admit publicly the frustration they have felt privately for some time.

I know the intent of the ministry after a century may be to resolve some of these long-standing problems under one act. I want to put it to the minister tonight that I do not think this bill does that. It is with some regret I oppose the bill, but I think it needs some opposition. It needs to go off to committee with the minister having a clear understanding that these are not just family squabbles that have to be put out here. They are basic and fundamental problems that have been identified in the legislation and that are not really resolved by the minister saying this evening she wants to make some amendments now.

She has brought our attention to these matters and she may or may not resolve them when the bill goes to committee, but people are aware that these problems are identified in the legislation. It seems to me they are now judging her intent. What is the intent of the ministry? Does the minister intend to expand the concept of user fees? She leaves me in a small amount of confusion this evening when she says she is going to go off to committee and make some determination about what library services are. It seems to me she has put down the flag here.

She identified that, because there is limited government funding, for many library services there is going to have to be, and is now, some introduction of the concept of user fees on a broader scale than we are familiar with. We have seen this concept in our high schools and elementary schools, in our hospitals, in parks and recreation services. We know full well, once that concept is in place, it rapidly expands. It is a concept I find quite offensive, particularly for something like library services.

The traditional view I have of library services is that a library is a place where people are not going to be concerned about whether they can afford to use the materials. If they had concerns about whether they could afford them, they would probably buy or rent or whatever. The library is the place where people who use it are able to get information, books and services of a

great variety without these things costing them a lot of money.

Libraries are a refuge for students—elementary school, secondary school and university students. They are places where people in a local community who may not have access to university libraries, such as those that are in very close proximity to this building, can go and get similar kinds of information.

The concept is now in place that some kind of user fee would be there to block their usage. While it might not be quite as dramatic as the user fees in place in our hospitals for senior citizens in chronic care facilities, there is a parallel. The wrongness around user fees persists even though we might be talking about whether they can get a book or some software for a computer, a record, a film or whatever it might be. The minister needs to do some work on that.

The minister did attempt to defuse one or two of the arguments which have been put to me. They are considerable. One is the relationship of the library and the library board to the local council. The minister will have to do some pretty hard work in committee to clarify that stance. She appears to have decided that the library boards will be subservient in a number of ways to the local municipal council. She will have some problems with that. Other members feel very strongly about the matter of censorship and things which might happen on a municipal council.

Most of us who have served on municipal governments know that from time to time they have their off nights when they get off the business of looking after a municipality and go off on some small tangent. This is usually a relatively harmless exercise. If we were opening the channel so that a municipal council could decide it does not like certain kinds of books and it wanted to use its influence over a local library, that would be an unfortunate thing.

I hope that is not the minister's intent. In my heart I do not really feel it is, but when I read the legislation this afternoon, I saw she had opened that door. Whether we are talking about what kinds of services or books would be provided or about library budgets, she has opened an argument I am not too sure she wants to open. When the bill goes to committee for public hearings, the minister will have to rethink that part of it.

In her introductory remarks this evening, the minister proposed changing the word "may" in section 31 to the word "shall." I am not one who quibbles about the semantics of it, but I think that

is necessary. Even more necessary than that, I would like to see what the ministry has in mind for funding library services for the foreseeable future. I am pleased it will give them some money, but even more pertinent is how much and for what kind of services.

One has to recognize there are different standards at work in Ontario. In many parts of the province, people do not have access to library services such as are made available in Metropolitan Toronto. The minister has to talk about that. The member for Oakwood (Mr. Grande) was dead on; we have to talk about challenging some people to provide innovative ways to give people library services of high quality.

In many of our communities it is library services alone that provide access to information for many people. If one lives in downtown Toronto, for example, the libraries provided by the city and Metro are one of many sources of information for people to do research for projects such as getting straight information about how governments work. In many of our communities the sole source of information is library services. The standard is very different from the one found in downtown Toronto. The minister has to address herself to that concern.

A couple of other areas have to be addressed when the bill goes to committee. I am not sure the minister has a good grasp of the different library boards in Ontario. I am not sure she has understood the different circumstances at work and the needs. In her opening remarks, I listened to the minister briefly address the size of the board and the fluctuation she might be prepared to consider. That is one aspect, but not the only one. I will be interested to know what other aspects of the different kinds of boards and services required she is prepared to consider as the bill goes through the committee stages.

10:10 p.m.

The minister does have some problems with this legislation. I wish it were otherwise because I know a number of people who have contributed to the discussions over the last three or four years in the preparation of this. They are dedicated people and have in their own little hearts a great deal of concern. The provision of library services is incredibly important for a lot of people. Many of us who have alternatives to going to the public library perhaps do not find it our sole source, but for many people to learn a new language, to learn English or French, to learn about a great many things, the library is an important place.

I use my own library services. I use the one here at Queen's Park. I personally and other

members of my family are very active users of the Oshawa public library system, which we think is a fine one. We are aware that the people in that system have put years of dedication and effort into trying to upgrade it, but have faced certain frustrations over the past few years that we had hoped would be rectified by the introduction of this legislation.

That is my frustration with it. I had anticipated, wrongly I guess, that the introduction of this legislation would resolve several problems that had been brought to my attention over the past few years. Now it turns out that the legislation, as it is currently proposed, does not do that.

The hope we have is that we will go off to committee and the minister will be reasonable, not just friendly, in accepting the representations that come in from people who are professionals in the field or who are users of the library system. We would hope she will not be hidebound by any definitions that may have been put forward by her bureaucrats, that she will listen carefully and openly to the depositions made before her at that committee.

I want to close by saying many of us who have listened to people on library boards and who work in libraries and have some interest in the library setup around Ontario over the past few years had anticipated these problems would be resolved by this legislation. I share the opinion of many of them that this does not help matters. In fact, it may make them worse in some degree. That was not the idea of this whole consultative process.

We will oppose the legislation this evening and we will oppose it when it comes up for a vote on second reading. We look forward to what transpires during the course of those committee sessions.

In her opening remarks this evening, the minister made note of three or four areas in which she will move amendments. I hope she will be amenable to others moving amendments in committee. I believe that if there are good intentions here to provide better library services and to resolve some disputes that have been simmering for quite some time, she will have to be that flexible.

This is hardly an ideological bill. It is one that has an ideological side to it, but the thrust of the bill generally is to resolve some practical, long-standing problems. The shame of it all is that we have not resolved those particular problems, even though we have gone through a consultative process.

Because they are not resolved in the bill, when it is presented for second reading, we are then dependent upon the minister going off to committee and making sure that in the first place people who have legitimate concerns about this piece of legislation have the opportunity to get here to Queen's Park to present their case.

As the member for Oakwood pointed out, that may be a relatively simple problem for those who live in Metropolitan Toronto, but for those from the far north or from eastern or southwestern Ontario, it is no mean feat to get to Queen's Park for a committee session.

I hope the minister will enter the committee stage of the bill with an open mind, will listen to the briefs put in front of her and will not be hidebound by the bill as she has presented it to us tonight. In conclusion, I maintain the bill itself is flawed in its present form and needs some more work.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I want to address myself to Bill 93, An Act respecting Public Libraries. I listened to the minister's opening statement and she painted a rosy picture that everybody in the province is going to accept the changes in the Public Library Act. I suggest she is trying to pre-empt herself because I do not think there are too many out there who may be happy with this piece of legislation.

I represent an area included in the Regional Municipality of Niagara Act and I can tell that the minister is not aware of the difficulties in the Niagara region through the regional library services that have been in force for a number of years and the financial difficulties in which the board has found itself in the past three or four years. A large amount of funds could not be accounted for.

Mr. Nixon: That is the one that went broke.

Mr. Haggerty: That is indeed the one that went broke.

One of the concerns of local library boards at that time was that they were not happy about what took place in the Niagara region and the circumstances that followed. They thought even then that the regional library services instituted some time ago were not accountable to local library boards and municipalities. In a sense, they were considered untouchable.

I am alarmed that the minister has not looked at this instance in the Niagara region and that this bill comes forward with further recommendations for regionalization. The minister is not satisfied with the Niagara regional library services now. She wants to set up a local library

board service area. That is what she has in the bill. That would include the Niagara region.

I guess one bypasses the Hamilton area. That is a separate area board in itself. Then one takes the Niagara region to include part of Peel county. It seems ridiculous to enlarge a board of that nature, to bypass Hamilton and go around the Golden Horseshoe to include the areas of Peel and Halton. That has raised some concerns about local library services.

If the minister thinks she will provide better library service through this approach, she is wrong. If she appoints a library board of nine or 10, whatever the number may be, much of the cost will be for local library board members travelling to the centres in Halton and Peel, and it will cost the taxpayers money. They will be spending all their time on the road. I can imagine having someone appointed from Fort Erie who will have to drive approximately 60 or 75 miles to a board meeting. That is great. That is what we call very accommodating, if I can put it that way.

Mr. Nixon: One might as well drive to Toronto.

Mr. Haggerty: That is right.

Talking about centralization, I thought this government had learned in the past that this is not what the general public wants. It wants decentralization, more so than ever.

The minister is taking what municipalities have built up over the years in providing good library services in the Niagara region. I was a member of the county council, and I believe we were one of the first to have a county library service. We used to have a vehicle that went from school to school. Times have changed since the rural schools. We now have excellent library services in the schools.

I can think of some comments made by the government House leader, the member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells), about libraries and community services. That is an area the government should be looking at which would save the taxpayers money and still provide a good service.

I can see this bill costing local taxpayers money because they will have no say in the expenditures. The minister is taking local autonomy away from the local municipalities. That is going to get out of hand, just as regional government did. The people in my area are fed up with the cost. They are getting services that are not much improved, but the cost is unbearable.

10:20 p.m.

My colleague mentioned the report of the special program review brought out by the then

Treasurer of this province in 1976. I suppose he was giving signals then. At that time he withdrew \$600 million from Ontario Hydro and said, "Enough is enough," with that board or commission, which was running away with huge expenditures because it can look to the province and say, "We have your support for it."

Nowhere in this bill does it tell me what the transition cost will be of implementing these larger boards. There has to be a cost factor. If I read between the lines, the minister is going to larger library boards at a larger cost, but the cost is going to be borne by the municipalities themselves.

I do not have to tell members of the difficulties that local councils have today even with education costs. It is great to have all these boards and commissions out of reach of local municipalities so they have very little say about expenditures, but when they send out the tax bill, who is the guy who gets rapped for it? The local councillor. So does the mayor. He has no control over that expenditure. As it is now, council has some control over it. Normally, councils do take into consideration library services. As much as the grants have been, they have provided excellent services.

Let me go back to what the member for Scarborough North thought should be done to save taxpayers money. With all the schoolrooms, the decline in enrolment in schools, the vacancies and the square footage in these schools, he had indicated we should be looking at making the schools the resource centres of the communities. I think he is right on.

As long as we are in the area of continuing education programs, what better place to have library services improved than in the local school system to which even the adults can have access. One high school in Port Colborne provides a library service for both the students and the general public, the community as a whole. It has worked out very well there. In fact, the parents go back to school, perhaps even with their children, and show a keener interest in the education system in Ontario.

It would be hard for me to support the intent of this bill, because it is not decentralizing but getting complete control. I can just see the bureaucracy that is going to be established at the head of this service area library board. I think the minister will agree with me that her intent is to have complete control over library services in the province. She is going to take away what little local autonomy is left to the local communities in their library services.

As I said, I have been a member of council. We have appointed excellent people to represent local library boards and they have provided a good service over the area. All this bill is going to do is to go backwards; maybe that is appropriate in this bicentennial year of Ontario. This is just a step to remind the people that this government is heading for complete control of almost everything, centralizing everything under one central authority, the government of Ontario. I do not think this is the right direction to go.

I represent Fort Erie. I often travel along the Niagara River and I happen to see the historical plaque that reminds us of the crossing of William Lyon Mackenzie, that great reformer of Ontario, who brought local government back to the people. This is what we should be looking at today.

Mr. Bradley: Power to the people.

Mr. Haggerty: That is right, power to the people. This government wants complete control over every body and soul without any concern for what the cost is going to be. I would suggest to the minister during this time of restraint that she should be taking a look at what our leadoff speaker said about the report of the special program review and what Darcy McKeough said seven or eight years ago. I think what he indicated still applies today.

I find it rather difficult to accept the proposal. I have a document here, a brief to the Ontario public libraries program review from administrators of medium-sized public libraries of Ontario. In the preamble it says:

"This proposal is based on two concepts which between them define the role of the local library and the relationship of the province to the library service in Ontario. The first concept is that the public library is essentially a local service reflecting community needs and priorities."

I suggest to the minister that this bill does not provide the thought or the intent of that preamble. It is a bill that has centralized almost everything within a certain ministry of this government. As a member who has had the impact of regional government shoved on to him, I think this bill is another step towards regionalization in Ontario.

One thing about the bill that I can perhaps agree with is that it says any smaller community of 10,000 or so may join a county library service board. I suggest this is the approach that should be taken. It should not be "shall," it should be "may." Normally a council takes a look at it and says, "If it is good for the public and if it is within

the reach of our funding, we will adopt that principle."

But I suggest that in this transition of regional library services to centralized areas there must be a cost involved. I would like to know from the minister what the projected cost of this new library service is and what the share of the province is in relation to local costs to municipalities.

Mr. Nixon: Perhaps this would be a suitable time.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to hear the House leader of the Liberal Party say it is an appropriate time for me to speak.

Mr. Nixon: I like your three-minute speeches.

Mr. Laughren: It is the only one of my speeches the member likes.

I am pleased to participate in the debate on the Public Libraries Act. There are many people out there who have expressed some very real concern, not about the intent of the minister on this bill but about the possible ramifications if this bill becomes the law of the land.

I was struck by the brief from the Ontario Library Association when it was expressing its appreciation for what the bill included. I thought it was particularly strange that the things with which it expressed satisfaction were things that a lot of associations take for granted.

For example, it expressed satisfaction that board meetings were to be open to the public. Since it is an organization that is funded totally by the public, most people accept that meetings would be open to the public. Concerning the fact that basic library services would be free of charge to all, I think since the service is provided 100 per cent by funding from the public, there obviously should not be a charge for it.

There is the fact that the development of larger units of service will be encouraged. Anybody who has followed the course of this government in its encouragement of large school boards and regional governments would understand that this is a fact of life in Ontario.

When I look at what the library association is expressing satisfaction about, I think, "I am glad they see that and they agree to that," but then when we get down to the areas where they have some concerns, they are very fundamental concerns. I cannot help but feel the minister should go back and take another look at the act.

When we debate this legislation again on Thursday evening, I will be very happy to remind the minister of some of those concerns.

On motion by Mr. Laughren, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:31 p.m.

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Thursday, November 1, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, November 1, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I beg to inform the House that vacancies have occurred in the membership of the House by reason of the resignation of James R. Breithaupt, Esq., as member for the electoral district of Kitchener, and T. Patrick Reid, Esq., as member for the electoral district of Rainy River, effective midnight, Wednesday, October 31, 1984. Accordingly, warrants have been addressed to the chief election officer for the issue of writs of elections for the said electoral districts.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, for just a moment on that point, I want to tell you and members of this Legislature that our colleagues will be sadly missed for more reasons than just the one. Mr. Breithaupt and Mr. Reid have made many friends among the legislators in this House over the years. They have both served dutifully and well. They had very different styles and they made very different contributions.

I am persuaded that when the history of this Legislature is written, Patrick Reid's name will go into that history as one of the legislators who defined the role and activity of the public accounts committee. He was always a tireless and effective critic of government spending. More important, he devised new procedures to deal with the difficult problem of government accountability. He will be sadly missed for that as well as for his great sense of humour on most occasions.

Mr. Breithaupt, who has served faithfully for 17 years with a sense of dignity and duty unlike that of many others I have known in this Legislature, will continue to serve the people of this province as chairman of the Ontario Law Reform Commission. I wish him well in that regard.

On behalf of my colleagues, I say God speed to our two dear colleagues. We wish them well and we are glad they have both chosen avenues in life in which they will continue to serve the people of this province.

In addition, I rise on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I hold in my hand evidence that this

House is being gravely deceived. I would like to put the case to you and ask you to adjudicate upon it. You will be familiar—

Mr. Speaker: I must point out to you that a point of privilege must be something that has offended your privileges.

Mr. Peterson: This has offended my privileges gravely, sir.

Mr. Speaker: Just one moment.

Mr. Peterson: I suggest you are not in a position to make a judgement until you hear me out.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I would ask you to resume your seat. The member for York South.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, before he goes on to his other concerns, I wonder whether the leader of the Liberal Party would allow us to join in the tribute he has so generously paid today to his colleagues who have left this House for other endeavours on behalf of the people of Ontario. I am sure honourable members of all parties will want to join the leader of the Liberal Party in wishing Mr. Breithaupt and Mr. Reid the very best.

If I can speak personally, both Mr. Reid and Mr. Breithaupt were extremely kind to me on my arrival in this place. I knew Mr. Reid's brother John very well in the House of Commons. They are two very different brothers with very different styles.

Pat Reid is somebody whose work on the public accounts committee we have all appreciated. He has been a tireless fighter for greater government responsibility and for the rights of private members in matters dealing with government spending.

I am sure we would all want to join the leader of the Liberal Party in expressing our very best wishes to Mr. Reid as he takes on the onerous task of leading the lobby forces, as it were, of the Ontario Mining Association. We certainly look forward, and I know my colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) looks forward, to many sympathetic discussions on the questions Mr. Reid will be putting forward on points of view.

We know Mr. Reid is going to fight for safe working conditions and for ensuring the mining

companies pay their fair share of taxation and their fair share of contributions to the development of the north in communities such as Hemlo and elsewhere, as they pay the amounts necessary to ensure good development across northern Ontario.

Mr. Reid takes on that job at a time when mining prices are very depressed. It is going to be a difficult task for him. We certainly wish him well.

With respect to Mr. Breithaupt, I know my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) would very much like to be in the House on this day to pay tribute to his long-standing colleague as Justice critic.

I can certainly pass on to Mr. Breithaupt a very real sense of loss on our part in that we will not have his keen legal mind in the House nor his concern for civil liberties. His dynamic presence will no longer be here, but it will be in a place where it can be felt and its effect can be felt, that is to say, the Ontario Law Reform Commission.

There are certainly a lot of laws that need to be reformed. It is a never-ending task. In this province, it is a positively herculean task. We want to wish our very best to Mr. Breithaupt in this very important job he is carrying out on behalf of all the people in Ontario.

To those two members, we in this party certainly want to say farewell. We will be seeing them again in different circumstances and at different times. We look forward to working with both those distinguished gentlemen.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as a representative of this side of the House, I would certainly want to join the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) and the leader of the third party in recognizing the distinguished service of someone who I think is a true northerner. I have to admit I was somewhat concerned when I walked in this afternoon that, after his 17 years in this House, this would not be recognized.

I said in the debate on my estimates I regretted the former member for Rainy River was not there because he did make a good, solid, tough contribution to the examination of my ministry's estimates. It is fair to say that while he was somewhat tough, he was always fair. He believed in and was very supportive of the goals and objectives of my ministry and on many occasions the goals and objectives of this government. I certainly want to have that recorded.

2:10 p.m.

As has already been stated, he was a strong chairman of the public accounts committee. We

will remember him for that contribution. He was a very outspoken advocate of northern Ontario issues across the board. Whether they were social or economic, Pat Reid was there. There is no question about that.

I know the Leader of the Opposition will want me to recall that Mr. Reid was the president of the Liberal Party in 1976. I know he will want that on the record because he made a good contribution to the party to which he was so faithful.

The resignation of Pat Reid is also significant in my area because he joins his brother John, who was a federal member for 19 years in the federal House and was defeated in the September 4 election. I think this has changed the aura of politics in northwestern Ontario. It is the end of an era. The Reid family is gone.

Mr. Martel: Goodbye, Leo.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Not the end of this era. We are into a new era.

I know my colleagues on this side of the House join with all other members to extend to Pat and Maureen the very best in their new endeavours. I am particularly pleased Pat has taken on responsibilities in the free enterprise field, in the private sector, so to speak. I know he will feel very comfortable there. I am sure we will see and hear a lot from Pat Reid, a very distinguished northerner.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I have a lot of friends too. I would like to talk for a minute.

Mr. Peterson: Take a minute or two to call all your friends.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I have enough friends I meet in better places than telephone booths.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to rise on this occasion to make a few comments about two people I have regarded as friends and associates, both of whom compiled distinguished records over 17 years in this Legislature, albeit in different fields.

Mr. Reid was and is my friend. I served with him in the development of the Audit Act. Many of the things he did as the chairman of the public accounts committee and as a member of many committees in this Legislature have made our administrative processes all the better. He may not have laboured in the most glamorous part of the Legislature, but he laboured hard, long, honourably and well.

I do have some familiarity with the mining industry in Ontario and I am sure he is entering that field at a particularly difficult time. While he is a loss to this Legislature, none the less he is a

very significant gain to the private sector, particularly one as important as the mining industry is to the part of the country where he has his roots.

Mr. Breithaupt certainly deserves the commendation of this house for the many years he was virtually the select committee on company law. Again, that is an area in legislative dimensions in this province that is not the most glamorous nor the one that gets the headlines, but the very significant and substantial improvements in company law that there have been are a tribute to his hard work, his initiative and to many of the very forthright stands he took at a time when they were perhaps somewhat more controversial than they would be today.

In many ways, every motorist in this province owes a great deal to Mr. Breithaupt. He was one of those who changed insurance law in this province. Mr. Breithaupt is one of the people who enabled me to bring in compulsory automobile insurance in this province. Indeed, many of the remedies to some of the problems caused by administrative matters in the insurance field are no longer with us because of the work of Mr. Breithaupt and the committee he dominated one way or the other for so many years.

Once again, I think we are fortunate in this province that we can have people who can compile such a distinguished legislative record and then go on to work even further in a most significant part of our lives, the Ontario Law Reform Commission.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I would very much like to deal with a point of privilege, but I understand the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has a statement on the death of Mrs. Gandhi. I think it would be most appropriate if we went ahead with that. After that is finished, I would be grateful to have the floor to make my point.

DEATH OF INDIRA GANDHI

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government and people of Ontario, I would like to express our sorrow at the killing of a remarkable world leader, the Prime Minister of India, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. I would like to express the sympathy of all of us to Mrs. Gandhi's family and to the Indian people.

Mrs. Gandhi was a forceful, astute and courageous leader. As Prime Minister of the world's largest democracy, her task was always difficult and sometimes impossible. Much of India's progress in the last two decades is the result of her life of service.

On two occasions my wife and I enjoyed her hospitality. She was a remarkable leader. When we last spoke in May of this year, I could see she was terribly and visibly distraught by the unfolding events in Amritsar. It is difficult for us in Canada to comprehend fully the depth of the regional tension which she faced and the difficulty of maintaining a proper balance between freedom and order.

This has been a tragic year for India. We can only hope that this shocking event, following so soon after the occupation of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, will serve to restore the voice of reason and calm to a furious and violent debate.

Above all else, India has been a shining example to the world of the importance of nonviolence as a political force. Neither the assassination of the Mahatma nor the death of Mrs. Gandhi should alter the resolve of the Indian people to make progress through communal harmony and rational democratic debate.

To our citizens of south Asian origin here in Canada, I would simply say, regardless of our religion, we must all appreciate the importance of dealing with a tragedy like this in a rational and compassionate manner. Neither grief nor grievances should mar the harmony that Canadians from India have established in this country. We must pray for peace in India and appeal for calm here at home.

To the new Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, we extend our deepest sympathy and our hope that he will be able to reduce communal strife, deal with legitimate grievances and restore Indian democracy to the best traditions of Nehru and Gandhi. As the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Sir Sonny Ramphal, said yesterday, "We can only pray for India." Regardless of our religious or political views, Mr. Gandhi deserves our support in a very tense and difficult time. The path of violent confrontation is one we must all reject.

2:20 p.m.

At this time of crisis in the life of India, I should like to remember and repeat the words of India's greatest poet, Tagore, who wrote of his hopes for India, saying:

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high;

Where knowledge is free;

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls;

Where the words come out from the depth of truth;

Where the mind is led forward by thee into ever-widening thought and action—into that

heaven of freedom, my father, let my country awake.

At the appropriate time, this might be an occasion perhaps for one minute's silence.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to associate my party with the very thoughtful and eloquent words of the Attorney General today, because the brutal slaying of Mrs. Gandhi by her own bodyguards is a very black day in the history of not only the Indian nation but the world as well.

This strong and determined woman dominated the political scene of the subcontinent for more than 20 years. Her death leaves a vacuum that many people fear will lead to political and civil chaos, to strife and to bloodshed, foreshadowed by the bloody riots that have already broken out in cities and communities across India.

While we mourn the passing of a national leader who has been recognized as a powerful force throughout the world for many years, we must all pray that the volatile emotions generated by Mrs. Gandhi's death will be counterbalanced by a delicate and dedicated move to ensure that compassion, wisdom and understanding will prevail.

For many of us in this House it is truly difficult to comprehend the vast and tumultuous country that is India; a land of colourful and dramatic contradictions, I understand, of magnificence and grinding poverty, of democracy and oppression, of great enlightenment and widespread despair.

However, we all do fully comprehend the fact that the assassination of Mrs. Gandhi is yet one more signal that terrorism and fanaticism are to be feared and fought against, that it is almost impossible in this world to guard against murderers and assassins who are determined to achieve their goals and that our only real defence is to work without ceasing to eliminate the conditions that give rise to hatred and lack of understanding.

Our sympathy and condolences are extended to the family, the friends and the followers of Indira Gandhi. There are those who would criticize her methods, but this remarkable woman had a great and a clear vision for her country, for which she worked tirelessly.

Like the father of India's independence, Mahatma Gandhi, she favoured a secular state with tolerance for people of all faiths. She worked hard to resist India's internal fragmentation, to bring India into the industrial age and to ensure that all people were fed and educated. Mrs. Gandhi's presence on the world stage had

for many years a powerful impact for peace, which will also be missed. Her death indeed marks the end of an era.

In this time of strong emotions and heightened tensions that the Attorney General referred to, we must all, in this country and in other countries, strive and pray for calmness, for understanding and for the wisdom to make the right decisions here in Canada, throughout the world and, most especially now, in India.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, India has lost a remarkable political leader. The world has lost a remarkable leader. Indira Gandhi was somebody who, through the force of her own unique personality, became the Prime Minister and political leader of India and dominated the politics of that country for the past 20 years. In fact, one can almost say the Nehru family itself has dominated the politics of the Indian subcontinent for the past half century.

It is a terrible loss and it is one that all of us who are committed to the democratic process anywhere in the world share. It is a loss that is felt most strongly, most particularly and most personally by Indians all over the world. To the citizens of India, to the people of India and to Indians who have made their home here in Canada, we in our party want to express our deepest sympathy and our strongest feelings of condolence and of enormous sadness at this terrible event.

While the world and India have lost a remarkable leader, while this kind of assassination always takes our breath away with its brutality and its suddenness, and while we all feel and are so aware of the enormous tensions that exist today on the Indian subcontinent, as they have for many years, perhaps I might add these words to the comments that have been made by the Attorney General and the Leader of the Opposition.

Indian democracy has shown itself to be remarkably strong. That strength was underestimated by the British Empire at a time when Indian democracy wanted to take its place in the world. It has been underestimated by various people at different times of transition.

When Gandhi himself was assassinated, it was said this meant the end of any hope for democratic or parliamentary government in India. Despite the tremendous loss of life and the incredible fighting over the partition, that was proved wrong.

When Nehru died, there were many forces in the world that said India would now be in chaos. However, Indian democracy threw up leaders

such as Shastri and, later on, Mr. Desai, who proved themselves to be remarkable political leaders not only at home but also in the world.

I suggest there will be those who today will say this event, terrible as it is, marks the end of the possibilities for democracy in India. I want to make it very clear that we on this side of the House do not underestimate things for a moment. Of course there are irrationalities. Of course there is brutality and violence. However, there is also the strength of a people and of a subcontinent that has shown its commitment to democracy in many difficult circumstances over many years.

We affirm our commitment to do whatever we can, as Ontarians and as Canadians, to strengthen that cause of democracy and to ensure that it happens. We express our confidence that once again, despite the difficulties, the hardship and the terrible event that took place yesterday, democracy will triumph in India.

Mr. Speaker: I ask all honourable members to rise and join me in observing a minute's silence in respect for the memory of the late Indira Gandhi.

The House observed one minute's silence.

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: You will no doubt recall that in the past few days there have been some very heated discussions at the sittings of this Legislature about the quality and nature of certain meetings that took place in New York with Standard and Poor's, the rating agency of Ontario. You will be aware of the different interpretations and facts given by different people surrounding those meetings.

I would like to put to you, sir, the case that this House has been grievously deceived and that my privileges as a member have been abrogated, and then I will ask you for a remedy.

You will recall that one of the discussions was about the nature of the meetings that took place in New York in August. Was it a special review, was it an extraordinary kind of appeal tribunal or was it in the normal course of events?

The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) said on October 25 that he went to New York and because Standard and Poor's had chosen this year to do a review of Canada in total, we thought it was appropriate that we take the extra time...."

You will recall that on October 29 the Treasurer said, "Standard and Poor's chose this year to review each province and Canada as a whole." The proof was presumably contained in a report.

You will also recall that on October 30 the Premier (Mr. Davis) said: "It was brought to my attention some time during August—it could have been the latter part of July, but I think it was the beginning of August—that one of the rating agencies was doing an evaluation of Canada as a whole."

Clearly, the words used gave the impression there was a special review of Canada going on that needed the attendance of both the Premier and the Treasurer. There is corroboration in the *Toronto Star* under the byline of Mr. Alan Christie, who quoted the Treasurer as talking about "a totally fresh review of Canada, starting anew."

2:30 p.m.

This morning, my staff spoke with Marie Cavanaugh, Standard and Poor's research officer who is responsible for Ontario, and I quote her exact words:

"There was no special Canada-wide review. This year was the same as last. We assess each province at the end of each fiscal year. Nothing special was done this year for Canada, nothing extra. All provinces have the same fiscal year-end. We do our annual in-depth review at about the same time. It is coincidence that they are all reported on at once.

"Part of our review includes comparisons between provinces. There is nothing special about the report. It did not result from an extraordinary review; it just evolved naturally. We decided to do the overall credit comment on the Canadian provinces; it did not come from anything other than the normal course of reviews."

That is in direct contradiction of the words of the Treasurer in this House. I would like to go on and point to another gross deception.

You will recall, sir, the discussion of whether Standard and Poor's reviews the past performance of the province or the future undertakings given by senior government officials such as the Treasurer or by the provinces. The Treasurer's words are exactly the following from Hansard:

"The honourable member must understand that the rating agencies are retrospective. They simply look at what has occurred. They do not look into the future and try to figure out what one is likely to do next year or get any assurance with regard to what one is likely to do, because they do not see that as their job vis-à-vis the province.... As I indicated last week, the entire discussion is retrospective."

I am sure you will remember the Premier gave quite a different line two days later, saying only

part of the judgement is based on the track record of the particular jurisdiction. "While a part of their analysis and a part of their judgement is predicated upon past performance, in the current financial year they are interested in the objective we have of reducing the budgetary deficit."

This was further corroborated outside this House, in the column of Mr. Claire Hoy in the *Toronto Sun*, who said, "Asked if the future performance is a factor in credit rating, he said: 'That is part of their consideration, yes, the growth potential that exists.'" Those are the Premier's words.

This morning, in the same conversation, Ms. Cavanaugh was asked the question, "Does the review of the province involve both past performance and proposed future action?" The answer, and I quote Ms. Cavanaugh, is: "Yes. We review the performance of the province and take into consideration the province's forecasted budget programs. We make our assessment after reviewing both."

Hon. G. W. Taylor: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: We are on a point of order.

Mr. Foulds: The Solicitor General cannot interrupt another point of order.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Solicitor General please resume his seat.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Will the Speaker please define for us what the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) is doing?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Just for the edification of all members, this is not a question that is being put.

Mr. Peterson: It is clear from those facts that this Legislature has been deceived; it is clear that someone has lied.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the Solicitor General please resume his seat. Thank you.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the consequences of these statements are so severe, not only for their financial ramifications but also for the integrity of this House and some honourable members of the government, that I am asking you to use your extraordinary powers to refer this to the standing committee on procedural affairs and to bring the independent witness before this House to determine the facts.

We cannot go on when someone is lying about such an important part of government policy in this House. I put this case to you, and I am asking

you to put this in motion to get it before a committee of this House.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. I want to make one point clear to the honourable member. When I rose to interrupt the member, it was not to declare whether he was in or out of order.

I believe the member asked me to adjudicate. The extraordinary powers he referred to, I actually do not have. It is not my role or my position to make a judgement or to adjudicate as to who is telling the truth or who is not. Quite clearly, as I said before in answer to a question from another member, we are judged to be honourable members and, as such, we must take the words of each other as being factually correct.

Mr. Peterson: I respect your ruling, sir. I want to place notice with you that we will be putting a motion in this House to refer this matter to the standing committee on procedural affairs.

VISITORS

Mr. Speaker: Before we hear from the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), I ask all members of the assembly to join with me in recognizing and welcoming in the Speaker's gallery our Ontario parliamentary interns for 1984-85: Joydeep Mukherji, Timothy Welch, Catherine Fooks, Elizabeth Arnott, Ronald Hoffmann, David Docherty, Marilyn Domagalski and Michael Yeo.

PARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: You will recall that on Tuesday, October 30, I was named by Mr. Speaker and ejected from the House. That was as a result of a bit of an altercation between Mr. Speaker and myself which resulted from my request that Mr. Speaker ask the Minister of Correctional Services (Mr. Leluk) to withdraw certain remarks that had been directed at me. Mr. Speaker stated that because he did not hear these remarks, he could not exercise this option.

The minister then rose in his place and said: "Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I have been accused by the member for Sudbury East of uttering some obscenity in this House.... I cannot withdraw something I have not said. I have been a member of this House for 13 years and I have never uttered an obscenity in this House."

If the traditions and rules of the House are to be upheld, no member should be permitted to get away with mouthing obscenities because of acoustics or some other reason.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Now it is mouthing.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member is wasting time.

Mr. Martel: Many of my colleagues have assured me that they witnessed the member saying this. I will name them, if the members will quit the caterwauling. Some of my Liberal friends have indicated this, after seeing this statement, and join with me. They cannot all be wrong.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Sure they can. They usually are.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Let me name a few: The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), the former Speaker, whom some of the members trusted; the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie); the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds); the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren); the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan); the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), and the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke).

Mr. Havrot: Birds of a feather.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Martel: The member would know all about it. We took the sound track out over him.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Remember when he used to call people names?

From the Liberals, there is the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil), the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston) and the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye).

It is no longer sufficient for Mr. Speaker to say, "We are all honourable members and we will not say these things or we will withdraw." Our rules do nothing to the person who makes the obscenity except allow to ask through the Speaker that he withdraw it. When that member does not and the member who is aggrieved rises and says the member is possibly misleading or lying, that member is thrown out, not the person who makes the obscenity or the remark; he sits there.

I am asking you, Mr. Speaker, and you have this power, to refer this matter—because it is long overdue that we bring these rules into the 20th century—to the procedural affairs committee. It is time those people who make these kinds of accusations pay the price, not those who are trying to defend themselves. I would ask the Speaker to direct this matter to that committee.

Mr. Speaker: That was a somewhat different point from the one I thought the honourable

member was going to raise. I have sympathy for it and I agree with it wholeheartedly inasmuch as the standing orders of this House certainly do not reflect 1984 or even perhaps 1985.

I am not sure. I do not really think it needs my direction; I think it is something the committee may perform on its own but I have no hesitation in taking the advice of the member and, if it is going to speed things up in any way, I would be happy to do so.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on the point of order: I am very glad you have undertaken to refer the matter to the committee. I want to get up on a point that has bothered me for a long time, and perhaps you are familiar with it.

Without entering into what was right or wrong about the exchange on Tuesday, it is my view, held very strongly ever since I came into this House, that if a member calls another a liar, I cannot see how that person can rejoin the operation of the House without withdrawing.

I am not talking about this particular case, because I cannot get into the argument, but the fact that a person calls another member a liar and is expelled from the House for a few hours or even a few minutes is no kind of penalty. I do not see how the proper business of the House can continue involving those two members in their responsibilities in the future until the matter is withdrawn. I simply put it to you as something that should continue to concern us all as members of the House.

Some comments have been made that our rules should be brought up to date with the idea that this sort of interjection may be okay in modern parliaments and parliamentary debate. I hope you reject that concept out of hand. The business of this House cannot proceed either now or in the future when people are supposed to be working together in the business of the House, one having called the other a liar.

Mr. Speaker: I thank the honourable member for bringing this matter to my attention again, as he has on other occasions, and again I agree with and have sympathy for what he is saying.

I would go further than I did in the first statement. When these matters are being considered, I hope the committee will have the courtesy to consult the Speaker and his staff.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

CRIME PREVENTION WEEK

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the honourable members that next week is Crime Prevention Week in Ontario and a number

of activities are planned around the province in recognition of that fact.

I am sure all of us recognize the important role that crime prevention has to play in maintaining Ontario as a safe and humane place in which to live. The heartening news is that citizens of this province are recognizing in increasing numbers that effective policing is really a partnership. As Sir Robert Peel said, "The police are the public and the public are the police."

The Ministry of the Solicitor General has recently undertaken several further initiatives in the crime prevention field, and I am happy to report that the response, both from our police forces and from other citizens, has been enthusiastic.

Next week we will be holding 10 seminars across the province cosponsored by the ministry and the local police forces. The seminars, covering a wide variety of crime prevention programs, will be held in Windsor, London, Hamilton, Toronto, Belleville, Kingston, North Bay, Thunder Bay and Sault Ste. Marie. I believe members have already been invited to attend the seminars in their areas.

At those seminars, I will be presenting the Solicitor General's awards for crime prevention for the first time. The purpose of the awards is to recognize individuals and groups from both police and the community for meritorious achievement and leadership in the field of crime prevention.

I have also formed the Solicitor General's Advisory Committee on Crime Prevention, which has already held its first meeting. The committee, made up of representatives of the police community and the private sector, will meet to discuss new ideas and programs we might utilize in the crime prevention field.

The committee is chaired by my deputy minister. Members of the committee include Marlene Catterall, Association of Municipalities of Ontario; Rob Warman, of the community colleges law and security program; Charles Weir, Commercial Security Association of Ontario; Chief John Hughes, Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police; Glen McMahon, Ontario Retail Merchants Association; John Bates of the organization with the acronym PRIDE, People to Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere; and Staff Sergeant Rod Gilmour, Police Association of Ontario.

Other members include Hugh Waddell, Municipal Police Authorities; Barrie Doyle, Ontario Real Estate Association; Mr. M. E. P. Ballard, Canadian Bankers' Association; Gael Miles,

Neighbourhood Watch; Gertrude Roes, Ontario Block Parent program; Commissioner Archie Ferguson of the Ontario Provincial Police; Shaun MacGrath, chairman, Ontario Police Commission; Mr. A. O. Shingler, Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations Inc.; Mr. J. D. Lawson, Ontario Chamber of Commerce; Denise Belamy, Ontario women's directorate; Murray Swift, Insurance Crime Prevention Bureau, and R. L. Monte of the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Our theme for Crime Prevention Week is "crimeproofing your life." I am sure all members will join me in encouraging our citizens to participate.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. How does he explain his interpretation of that meeting in August as a totally fresh review of Canada, a special review, when Ms. Cavanaugh from Standard and Poor's has a completely different explanation of that set of meetings? Who is right? How does he explain the discrepancy?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I can only report the information I had at the time, that this was a review of all Canada. Ms. Cavanaugh has her view from the agency with regard to what it was doing—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me offer the members a different view. I have the transcript from Radio Noon yesterday wherein a Roger Taillon, also from Standard and Poor's—I do not happen to know him; he is a managing director of Standard and Poor's—was well reviewed and interviewed by Mr. Schatzky. I will read the whole thing so the member cannot accuse me of excerpting. He talks about it being both a normal and a Canada-wide review. This is his version:

"Schatzky: 'Why did Mr. Grossman and Mr. Davis have to go to New York to see you?'

"Taillon: 'That is part of our normal review process. Typically, we review each issuer when we have debt rated at least once a year, and as part of this process we meet one or more times with the issuers. In this case, Mr. Davis and Mr. Grossman came to New York to see us as part of the normal review process.'

"Schatzky: 'Was Ontario's triple-A credit rating in doubt?'

"Taillon: 'Ontario's triple-A credit rating was reaffirmed. Now obviously, it was also under review at this time'—"

Mr. Sweeney: That was not exactly the question, was it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was noisy. Perhaps the member missed that.

“Ontario’s triple-A credit rating was reaffirmed. Now obviously, it was also under review at this time. We were reviewing the debt ratings of all the Canadian provinces.

2:50 p.m.

“As I say, once a year, in any event, we will review the ratings of all of the issuers, but in this case, considering the slower recovery in the economy than perhaps we had been expecting before, as well as the levels of budget deficits in a number of provinces, we made it a special point to do a thorough review of the debt ratings of all of the Canadian provinces at one time, which we accomplished this day of August and early September.”

So there we have it from a managing director of Standard and Poor’s, explaining, I suppose, if one sees both paragraphs, how Ms. Cavanaugh could be saying it is a normal process and Mr. Taillon pointing out that, because of unusual circumstances in Canada, they made a special point of doing a thorough review of the debt ratings of all the provinces. That is why we were there.

Mr. Peterson: Let us not be confused about the facts. There was no special review of Canada according to Ms. Cavanaugh, but a special review of the Treasurer who took the Premier (Mr. Davis) to New York because of that special review. That is what is at stake here.

How does the minister explain the difference in opinion between himself and Ms. Cavanaugh as to how Standard and Poor’s works? The minister said quite flatly and categorically that the entire discussion was retrospective. In response to the question, “Do you review the province, both past performance and proposed future actions?” she said “Yes” and the Premier agreed with her. How does the Treasurer explain that discrepancy?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Given that the Leader of the Opposition is zero for one today, let us try the second one.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was certainly important enough for him to allege his privileges were abused.

Mr. Speaker: I presume you do want an answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, Mr. Speaker, that is the first time you have been wrong in a long time.

Perhaps I may continue with Mr. Taillon, who goes on to that point.

Question: “There are some people who might wonder if you at Standard and Poor’s may have told Ontario, ‘We’ll give you a triple-A credit rating if you reduce the amount of debt in this province.’” Answer: “No. We never tell an issuer of any type what to do, how to run their business or how to structure an issue or anything like that.”

Mr. Wrye: That was not the question.

Mr. Kerrio: You do not believe that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, they believe their person from Standard and Poor’s but not this person from Standard and Poor’s. They have to understand that Standard and Poor’s does not operate like the Liberal caucus.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, with respect, we are going to have a chance to debate this when it comes time to consider the no-confidence motion that our party is moving.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for York South (Mr. Rae) has the floor.

Mr. Rae: If we are successful, the Premier is going to have to resign.

The Treasurer stated in this House on October 29: “The rating agencies are retrospective. They simply look at what has occurred. They do not look into the future.” He went on and said other things related to that.

There is Standard and Poor’s own document. I am not talking about phone conversations. I am talking about the document that has been released, the Canada-wide review, which I am sure the Treasurer has seen. It relates to Ontario. It says explicitly when it talks about Ontario, “Improved budgetary results in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are expected to reduce the debt burden.”

Surely that statement in and of itself directly contradicts the song and dance the Treasurer gave us on October 29, saying the whole production was simply retrospective. This is not a history class. This is an analysis of what Ontario is going to be doing.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, in terms of reading the Canada-wide review, as the honourable member has properly described it—and I have the Canada-wide review here—

Hon. Mr. Welch: That is the whole country?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, the whole country. That is Canada-wide. All of Canada.

Mr. Speaker: Answer the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: From sea to sea?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes. From Newfoundland to British Columbia.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: From the east coast to the west coast?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Does the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) want to answer the question or does the Treasurer?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I need all the friends I can get, Andy, from Bonavista to Vancouver Island.

I should point out that when Standard and Poor's refer to fiscal year 1985 in this Canada-wide review, fiscal year 1985 is their way of referring to fiscal years 1984-85. When they talk about 1985 and 1986 therefore, they are talking about the current year, for which they already have as much information as the member.

It says, "Improved budgetary results in fiscal 1985 and 1986"—1985-86, as it were—"are expected to reduce the debt burden." That is not a secret and it is not any undertaking or secret information given by me or the Premier to the agency. It has already been stated by me many times that I expect improved budgetary revenues next year, as I did this year, thanks to the very strong, growing economy we have here in Ontario. I stated on the record long before my visit to New York that we intend to use those revenues to reduce the deficit and keep the triple-A credit rating. That is the way we govern over here.

Mr. Peterson: How does the Treasurer square his remarks with those of the person who wrote that review, one Marie Cavanaugh, the research officer responsible for Ontario? She was the author and she said nothing special or extra was done this year for Canada. She went on to say: "We decided to do the overall credit comment on the Canadian provinces. It did not come from anything other than the normal course of reviews." How does the Treasurer square his comments with the words of the author?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The Leader of the Opposition might just as well ask how one squares her words with those of a managing director of Standard and Poor's.

All I can say in discharging my responsibility to this House, which is what I am here to do, is to give my understanding of the process. I would remind the Leader of the Opposition that I went there because I understood there was a Canada-wide review. I have in front of me the Canada-wide review. In the words of the

managing director, they had made a special point to do a thorough review of the debt rating.

In the Canada-wide review, they comment at some length in the general Canadian analysis at the start, before they get to the provinces, about the impact of the recession on all Canada and how various provinces have responded. I think it would be valuable to this House if we talked about that for a moment, because it does put the importance and propriety of our trip in some perspective. The general overview says as follows:

"In Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan, sufficient fiscal flexibility exists for more rapid deficit reduction, but the governments have chosen to make minimal use of revenue-raising capabilities because of the potential for undermining the economic recovery.

"Reflecting concern about the economy, many provinces also implemented stimulatory fiscal measures to help support employment growth, thus further slowing the budgetary adjustment process.

"While the economic and social arguments for a gradual reduction of budget deficits are recognized, this course of action is riskiest"—

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, with respect, this is—

Mr. Speaker: No, I think you have made your point, with all respect. I would point out that we have spent 14 minutes on this one question.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities with respect to the now 15-day-old strike in the colleges.

The minister will be aware that there has been a windfall or a saving to the public purse of approximately \$13.5 million in salaries that have not been paid to those people who are now on strike. I think the figure is fairly accurate. She may dispute it, but that is approximately correct.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not disputing it. I did not know it.

Mr. Peterson: The minister did not know. Well, I am telling her it is \$13.5 million.

Would the minister consider taking that money, which in a sense is now found money—a windfall, if you wish—to the bargaining table herself and saying, "We will inject this money

into the system to go some way towards solving the work load problem”?

In our view, that would probably go some way towards building relationships at the table. The minister would then have the power to break the logjam that has developed at the bargaining table. Will she take that constructive approach to the negotiations?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is a rather peculiar approach, as a matter of fact. I do not know whether there is a windfall of any kind or whether there will continue to be a windfall.

Mr. Martel: Just some wind.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is possible as well—from the other side of the House.

It is an interesting idea, and I will think about it. I do not know what the exact amount of money is because I have not been concerned about whether anybody has saved money or not. What I have been concerned about is trying to get the parties back to the negotiating table in order that they may resolve the issues.

Mr. Mancini: The minister has done nothing about it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, I have.

Mr. Peterson: It is our belief that this strike needs the minister's personal intervention, and that is something she can do in those circumstances. As she will modestly recall, she personally has been instrumental in solving strikes in the past, at least according to her own words. In Sudbury in 1980 she told members of the press in that strike, “When I became involved I got results.”

Given the spirit of leadership she has demonstrated in the past, will she get involved in this? There is a constructive idea for her. She could have something to add to the system to go towards solving the work load problems. It would admit that there is a work load problem. I believe with her charm and persuasiveness she could solve this strike in a few days.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do have a silver fork in my office, which I will be glad to lend to the honourable member because, I have to tell him, flattery will get him almost anywhere except in this situation.

I will do my very best, through whatever mechanism is available to me, to be of assistance in this strike in order to try to solve the problem for the students because it is the students I am primarily concerned about.

I must also say if I made that statement regarding the Sudbury strike, it was absolutely factual.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is also to the Minister of Colleges and Universities and it concerns precisely what role she has been playing in this dispute.

I wonder whether the minister is aware that there is a document that went out over the signature of Norman Williams, chairman of the Council of Regents, dated October 12, 1984. It talks about management's offer of September 25, 1984, and says, “The minister has stated her total commitment to the position the management committee has taken.”

I wonder how the minister can possibly square that with the comments she has made in public and in private about her neutrality in this dispute and her statement saying, for example, on October 18, 1984, “The only side I am on, and I hope the only side any member is on, is the students' side in this dispute....I am not an apologist for anyone.”

How does the minister square that with the clear impression she gave to somebody, or at least is out there, that she has stated her total commitment to the position of the management committee?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I must say the very first time I saw the document the honourable member says he has in his hand was today. I had not seen it before, but there is no doubt in my mind that as a member of the executive council of this government it would be most unusual if I were to differ from the government policy, stated clearly by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), that there is an inflation restraint activity active within this government and that five per cent is the upper figure which can be dealt with. I am sure I gave that impression very strongly because I am a member of this government and I certainly do support that. But I had not seen this document before today.

Mr. Rae: The minister is weaseling and she is not going to be allowed to weasel out from under this statement. There is a statement in this document; it never says she said what is in the entire document. No one ever said that. I never asked that question. The question I asked is, how would the Council of Regents have received the impression that the minister is totally committed to its bargaining position?

The minister knows perfectly well that the five per cent wage guideline is not the issue in this bargaining. It is not the issue in this dispute; it has nothing to do with this dispute. The issue in this dispute is work load and quality of education. The minister knows that. I want to ask the minister specifically whether she has made at any

time a commitment to the Council of Regents with respect to its overall bargaining position. If not, how is it possible that the council got this impression?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I talk at length with a number of people, including some whose names I cannot mention in this House, about the activities which are going on within the dispute related to the colleges. I talk as freely as I possibly can. I believe the position which was placed by the management team on September 25, 1984, is the position being referred to here and that position is that there not be any dramatic change in the formula related to work load but that there be a mechanism established to deal with problematical areas of the work load.

I would certainly agree that in this area a mechanism needs to be established. I also agreed that there needed to be modifications to work load, to sick benefits and to the other things which were being suggested within that agreement. I would remind the honourable members that the union refused to place that offer before the membership. They refused to accept it—

Mr. Rae: Oh, here we have it now—one side. The minister is taking one side in this dispute.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: All right. If the honourable member wants me to demonstrate the factual information I have, then all I can say is that I did express my support for the general framework of the position which was being placed by the management team before the union on September 24, 1984. The union locked the door and refused to accept the offer until after the strike vote had been taken. Then they placed the offer before the membership. I would hope, and I hear this from many members of the union, that the membership might have the opportunity to look at that offer and might have the opportunity to consider it.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, this is very important to me since I have Loyalist College in the city of Belleville within my riding. I know it is of concern to all the members.

My concern is that the minister is talking about trying to get these groups together. The thing is that the groups are not getting together. We are hearing about the mediator not being available for certain days. I have also been told on a couple of occasions that the mediator is working on another problem and is not giving his full attention to this matter.

Why does the minister, as they have done in the strike at General Motors, not lock up all of

those people concerned and tell them they have to sit down seven days a week and long hours every day until they get this thing solved, rather than letting it drift as she has done?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I directed the Council of Regents yesterday to ensure that the negotiating team for management would be available for discussions, for negotiations, for whatever would solve the strike, and it is ready. It is ready to sit down eyeball to eyeball with the union. It is ready to sit down with the mediator if that is appropriate.

There is apparently a small impediment that has to do with an annual meeting which is going on right now and which may be a barrier to those negotiations.

I gather the mediator is contacting both sides and is using his good judgement in relation to when the mediation should occur. I can only suggest strongly that it would be just as well if both sides were willing to talk, and I know the management side is willing to talk today.

Mr. Rae: It is clear from the conduct of the minister in the House today that she has put on a Jekyll and Hyde performance for the last two weeks. Some days she is all neutrality and then, when it finally becomes clear she is not all neutrality, she fesses up and says she agrees that this statement says total commitment. Now she is saying she agrees with the position management has taken.

I would like to ask the minister a simple question. Will she remove herself entirely from these negotiations? Will she get herself as far away from the bargaining table as she possibly can and ask the Premier (Mr. Davis) to bring the parties together, because she no longer has any credibility? She has become a party to this dispute and she has become a positive obstacle in settling this dispute.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As I have been trying to tell the members for some time, I have not been at the bargaining table. I have not intended to be at the bargaining table. My primary concern, and my only concern, is that the dispute be settled rapidly so that the students will return to their educational programs and not lose their academic year. That is my intent and that is my concern.

[Applause]

Mr. Rae: It was a good question, but I did not think it was that good a question. However, I guess it was pretty good.

Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). I would like

to know from the government whether it is his intention to come back this afternoon. I was told he would be here this afternoon. I have an important question for him. I have another question I can ask, obviously, but this is my question of choice, so I will stand it down and let the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) ask his question.

Mr. Speaker: I do not have any information regarding the attendance of any members. If the member has another question to ask another minister, he may do so.

Mr. Rae: I will stand down my second question until I hear definitely whether the Attorney General will be here.

NUCLEAR EXPORT PROGRAM

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Energy. Ontario Hydro is undertaking a major nuclear export program that could have significant impact on Ontario, yet the matter has not been brought forward publicly, nor has the Legislature had time to review it.

When Hydro starts to export the tritium from the \$100-million removal facility at Darlington, world demand for the nonmilitary use of tritium will be half a kilogram, yet Hydro will produce an estimated 2.5 kilograms. Can the minister tell me where Hydro plans to sell the excess two kilograms? Will it go to the military? Might it end up in hydrogen bombs? Will he consider that the total tritium used in the free world in 1983-84 for military and nonmilitary uses was five kilograms?

Hydro is putting on the hard sell to make money on tritium. It plans to earn \$750 million over the next 20 years by selling tritium at \$15 million a kilogram. Hydro is reckless in this matter and so is the government in not properly controlling the situation. Will the minister undertake a public inquiry and bring this matter to a legislative committee?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I find the member's figures rather interesting. I find it rather interesting that the member for Niagara Falls could talk about Hydro's major nuclear export program while, at the same time, he and his leader will stand up and say Hydro is not aggressive in its marketing and criticize it for being that way.

Mr. Bradley: That has nothing to do with the question.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Does the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) want to tell me about it? He seems very interested in this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: On occasion I have heard discussions in this House with respect to the tritium removal program of Ontario Hydro. This program is being developed in conjunction with the Darlington nuclear station. It is a \$100-million operation for tritium removal. It is also a part of Hydro's initiatives to participate in the Canadian fusion fuels technology project along with this government and the National Research Council.

This program is looking into some rather exciting technology that we hope will eventually lead to a practical application of fusion technology throughout the world and eventually solve some of our major energy problems. Certainly, the opportunities for export of tritium are part of the overall program.

I would be pleased to get some further details for the honourable member, but I cannot comment at the moment on the information and the kinds of figures he is presenting here.

Mr. Kerrio: The problem I have, and I am sure the minister will agree, is that we have to remove the tritium. I am sure the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) would concur with that.

My real concern is that Hydro is currently negotiating with the Oakridge National Laboratories in Tennessee to sell tritium. Oakridge is the world's largest tritium producer until Darlington replaces it in 1987. According to Hydro's Tom Drolet, also the manager of the Canadian fusion fuels technology project, Hydro has suggested it can take over the sales of nonmilitary tritium from Oakridge, freeing up Oakridge's tritium to be used for military purposes.

I would like the minister to explain to me whether this is adding to the military use of tritium. If Hydro is not selling directly but indirectly, is that tritium not going to end up with a military rather than a nonmilitary use of our Candu reactor?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: It is rather interesting that at the current time there is a rather well-structured and we hope constructive conference going on. It was initiated by a number of people, primarily an ecumenical group, to try to draw some sense out of this whole question of nuclear technology for peaceful uses versus nuclear technology for offensive uses.

I think it is very important that the honourable member in posing his question and this assembly in trying to come to grips with this whole problem appreciate that we have a nuclear

technology program in this country which, when applied to peaceful purposes, to constructive economic purposes, makes a lot of sense. We do not want to continue to confuse the other side of that issue with the application of a very practical and well-understood technology.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, can the minister assure the House it is the policy of the government that tritium exported by Ontario Hydro will neither be used directly for military purposes nor used in such a way as to facilitate the use of other tritium for military purposes anywhere in the world?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member should understand the fusion fuels program of Ontario Hydro is subject to some very stringent safeguards which have been put in place under the International Atomic Agency Nonproliferation Treaty, which the member will know is administered by the Department of External Affairs, Canada, and the Atomic Energy Control Board.

Mr. Wildman: Can the minister give us his assurance?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I am only in a position to assure the member that anything Hydro does with respect to nuclear exports will be subject to the discipline of those rules.

3:20 p.m.

FAMILY LAW REFORM

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General. On December 21, 1982, in answer to a question, he promised the Legislature that legislation to reform family law would be brought to the House within a year of March 1983. I have a series of headlines dated at various times in 1983 and 1984: "McMurtry Urges Split of All Assets in Divorces"; "More Assets"; "Fair Game in Divorce"; "Ontario Plans Major Review of Family Laws"; "Equal Share in All Assets Proposed in Divorce"—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: These are terrific headlines. I want to congratulate the Attorney General on those headlines. The question I have for him is a very simple one. He promised something in December 1982. That legislation still has not come before the House. Why has it not come before the House when he knows perfectly well it will not become law before 1985 or even 1986 with the kind of delays he has been practising in this matter?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to get the member for York South overly

agitated about this. However, it may have occurred to him that, to do this properly, there are a lot of very complex issues to deal with. With a number of my colleagues, I have been dealing with some of these issues as recently as this week. The legislation will be brought forward. It is going to be such good legislation that the honourable member will be terribly embarrassed by it all.

Mr. Rae: The promise of legislation, or the enticement or holding out of legislation, may appeal to delegates in some other process that no doubt the Attorney General has on his mind. However, I want him to know it means absolutely nothing to members of this Legislature and to tens of thousands of women who at the moment are being deprived of justice under the laws of Ontario because of the delays he is practising and tolerating.

I ask the Attorney General to explain why it has taken this long, when as recently as June 1984 he was promising it as something that was imminent. Can he tell us what the delay is, what the division is within his own cabinet and what the division is within his own ministry that it has caused this kind of delay at the same time as he is going around the province saying this great reform is just around the corner? When are we going to see it?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: First, I suggest the member do a little research. He will find the legislation, which was introduced in 1976 and passed in 1978, was probably the finest family law reform legislation to be passed by any legislature in any province.

When the member talks about tens of thousands of individuals being deprived of justice by any delays, I have to tell him he is talking a lot of nonsense. The legislation in force now is fundamentally fair and just. However, as I have said on a number of occasions, it will require some adjustments. We have been working on this for many months. There are some issues about which reasonable people can and do disagree.

Unlike some of the lemming-like instincts over there, we on this side of the House pride ourselves on being individuals. We are not afraid to debate some of these issues.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, in spite of the Attorney General's opinion about his legislation, is he aware that many of the columnists, at least in the Toronto press, have branded this aspect of his family law legislation the worst of all the provincial legislative packages in Canada?

Although he may, according to Orders and Notices, introduce the amendments before this

House rises for a Christmas break, there is still no indication when we are going to proceed with the legislation. He might leave it before the community for many months before the House proceeds. Can the Attorney General undertake that we will proceed with the legislation without delay when it is introduced?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, my advice to the House leader of the Liberal Party is not to take all the columnists too seriously. If he listens to them too carefully, he will be looking for another leader.

Mr. Rae: Despite all the bluff and bluster the Attorney General can muster on this matter, and despite all the nonsense he spoke about the law that was passed in the mid-1970s, the fact remains that Ontario now lags behind several other provinces with respect to family law. Also, I have been told by several lawyers in the family courts that cases are being delayed because they are waiting for the new legislation in the hope they will be able to get a fairer deal for their clients than the deal they would get under the present law.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: The Attorney General must know this as a practical person. If he can go around telling Trish Crawford, Martin Cohn and all the people in all the Toronto press what his plans are and how grandiose they are, what is the delay in letting us in on this wonderful secret, which he is sharing with a few people but which he refuses to share with the people who are going to be able to pass it, make it law and make it something that will actually give rights to people? Why is he more concerned with getting headlines than with dealing with the substance of the issue?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am obviously not going to be unduly provoked by the excessive and rather strident rhetoric on the part of the leader of the third party. The truth of the matter is that when this legislation is presented it will be the best that anybody can create. Unlike some of the decisions that are made on the opposite side of the House, and particularly in that party, this legislation is going to have the participation and continuing involvement of every member on this side of the House.

WASTE DISPOSAL

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. Given the importance of the solid waste reduction unit as an experimental garbage burning unit in Hamilton and the ministry's promotion of

this kind of approach to waste disposal, can the minister assure the people of Hamilton-Wentworth that the reputed funding as reported at the regional engineering meeting on Monday of this week—namely, matching the federal grant of 20 per cent, or \$2.4 million—is not the final government figure for the refit that is needed for the Swaru unit in Hamilton?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to report to the honourable member that we have not come to a conclusion with respect to the total funding for that project. I do not want to mislead him and indicate that more dollars may be available. The matter is under review. I have called for the four parties to get together: namely, Hamilton-Wentworth region, the province, the federal government and the private sector, in this instance Tricil, which is the manager of that project.

What I would like to see is a method by which we can not only improve on the safety and efficiency of that incineration operation in the Hamilton area but make it a situation that will be a pride to the community as well. I am quite prepared to sit down and negotiate with the parties, but I am not prepared at this time to commit the province to more money. However, to give the member at least some hope, I will say I have an open mind on the question.

Mr. Mackenzie: I appreciate the comments of the minister. As he must be aware, there is a growing feeling in the community that the unit should be shut down. That might be a regressive step. There was also a feeling on the part of the region that the province would probably match the regional-Tricil contribution, which would be \$4.8 million. That might get the project under way. I would ask the minister to meet with the local people, as he says he will, as quickly as possible.

My concern is that if we do not get a positive step and if the city is left holding the bag for \$5 million or \$6 million, the project is not likely to go ahead and we are going to have serious problems with the people in the region. Therefore, I would ask the minister to arrange a meeting as quickly as he can to try to get the work that is needed done on that unit so we can see whether it will work as one of the options for waste disposal.

3:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am prepared to give the member that undertaking. In addition, let me just say that part of the difficulty with respect to the funding of that unit and the very heavy financial pressure that would be on the regional municipi-

pality may be offset by some potential revenue sources; in other words, the throughput of additional waste that could perhaps be dealt with by that unit either from another municipality or by increasing the volume to a more acceptable level once the improvement in the environmental controls has been put in place.

There are ways we can find a solution to the problem. I share the concerns indicated by the member. The technology that went into that plant is approximately a decade old. It was state-of-the-art technology at the time it went in. I reiterate what I have said on many occasions: The plant is safe, based on all the monitoring we have done, but I would like to see some improvements there. We are prepared to work with the regional municipality to see that those improvements take place.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, the minister may remember this morning he sent around some notes from a statement he made last night to a group at a waste management convention. He said: "What we do with garbage is going to cost more. If we can accept that fact, we can act to control costs and provide a level of quality of service that meets the needs of our citizens today."

Why, according to a report of the local paper, the *Hamilton Spectator*, did the Minister of the Environment, when he addressed the concerns and needs of the citizens today, decide with respect to funding that he wanted to hold what he determined to be a war council to bang out some kind of decision with respect to the financial obligations of each of the parties involved?

The minister has obviously recognized the needs of the citizens of Hamilton with respect to this problem and says he requires a war council to shake down the money from wherever, whether it be from the region, the federal government or the private company. Why can he not put the government of Ontario into a position where it will fund the required overhaul to protect and ensure the quality of the environment of that city? Why will he not do that today?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, first, the honourable member should know that I did not deliver that speech, but I stand by all the comments in it. The light was very dim and I had to speak extemporaneously, without notes. The speech was not used, but I will stand behind the remarks contained in the speech.

Second, I would like to comment briefly on what the member raised with respect to the cost of waste management increasing in the future. I stand by that as well. With the additional

engineering of landfill sites and the advent of incineration or energy from waste, all the new technology will cost more money.

However, I did not imply in that speech that the entire overrun or increase in cost would become the total burden of the provincial government. The member would like me to say, irrespective of the contributions made by the federal government, by local municipalities or by others who have a responsibility, that we should come along and rather arbitrarily pick up the total excess cost. I am not prepared to commit myself to doing that.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister of Labour has the answer to a previously asked question.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I will look to you for guidance on this. I suggested I might pass the answer to the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), but I got the impression that he wanted me to present it in the House. It will probably take about five minutes. The member set a record and asked six questions in a supplementary; that is why it will take longer.

Mr. Speaker: There are two ways of dealing with that. You may do as you have suggested and send it directly to the member or you may do it through a ministerial statement, whichever you prefer. I would rather not take up the time of the House with such a lengthy answer.

Mr. Wrye: Why do we not stop the clock and do it as a statement?

Mr. Speaker: I do not have any jurisdiction to do that.

DEMOLITION CONTROL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have an important question for the Attorney General. It is my understanding that the Court of Appeal—just hours ago or in the last few minutes; I am not sure of the exact time, but today—turned down the appeal of the city of Toronto with respect to its request for demolition legislation that would prevent the destruction of the buildings the minister is so familiar with at 790, 800 and 840 Eglinton Avenue West. It appears those buildings will fall under the wrecker's ball.

The minister will also recall that a week or so ago I gave him a copy of an amendment to the City of Toronto Act that would have prevented the destruction of those buildings. Now it appears there is no other legal recourse; those buildings will fall. Will the minister use his powers, not only as the Attorney General but also as the representative of some 200 people living in those buildings who will lose their homes, to

introduce that amendment immediately to prevent the destruction of those buildings? I am sure we can arrange speedy passage in this House with the help of all parties if the Attorney General will assume his responsibility and save those buildings.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether my answer will be very much different from the one I gave a few weeks ago to a similar question—not quite the same, obviously—by the Leader of the Opposition.

First, I should say I am not aware of that decision—

Mr. Peterson: I am telling the Attorney General.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Well, the Leader of the Opposition tells us a lot of things from time to time that we prefer to corroborate, and we of course will be looking at it very carefully.

In view of some of the innuendo with which the honourable member was so free the other evening, I think about a week ago on Monday, suggesting the owner of these buildings might have been given some sort of favoured treatment by this government, I would just like to remind him that this is absolutely not so.

The truth of the matter is that we as a government have done a good deal to preserve those buildings during the past four years. With this in mind, the private legislation of the city of Toronto was passed, as I said in response to a question earlier in this session. It was a compromise that had been agreed upon by members of the government who are involved and by the mayor, as I recall, and members of city council. I think it was a fair compromise.

I do not know what can be done at this time to preserve those buildings, other than what we have been doing to date, and I will have to look at the legal ramifications of this judgement.

I want to remind the member that when we pass legislation in this House, we have to consider not just two or three buildings in any individual's constituency, however personally concerned we as individuals may be about the future of those buildings. We have to consider the impact of this legislation throughout the province generally, and obviously, before introducing any such legislation, this is something that has to be rather carefully thought out.

Mr. Peterson: I brought this to the Attorney General's attention 10 days ago or so. He said then he did not know what to do about it. I gave him a specific amendment that would solve this problem, an amendment supported, I understand, by the city of Toronto.

We know these buildings represent a larger problem; they have been the cause célèbre, but they speak to a wider problem. I have given the minister specific ways to solve that problem. He has had time to review them, and I think he should at least have the courtesy to respond in specific ways to the suggestion we have put forward to solve that problem. I am surprised he does not know.

Second, with respect to the minister's remarks about one Ben Axelrod's affidavit, I did not make the accusations.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Ben Axelrod said he spent \$500,000, some of which was to go to one David Cowper, the Attorney General's former campaign manager, to secure speedy passage in cabinet. Has the Attorney General investigated that affidavit? He said in the House 10 days ago that he was not aware of it. I gave the minister a copy of it that afternoon.

My two questions are the following: Why would the Attorney General not now introduce this amendment, which will save those homes? And when is he going to investigate the allegations of one Ben Axelrod, which are damning in view of his sworn affidavit?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Again addressing this innuendo that the Leader of the Opposition is only too fond of casting about on a whole host of issues, I would like to say that, whatever is in Mr. Axelrod's affidavit, I do know that representatives of Mr. Axelrod have written this government and have accused it of putting him into bankruptcy because of our efforts to delay or prevent any demolition of those buildings during the past four or five years.

3:40 p.m.

I want to make it clear to the members of the Legislature that Mr. Cowper was not a campaign manager. He was a campaign chairman for my predecessor, Len Reilly. He was of great assistance to me in my early elections; that is true. But I want to tell the members of the House that on this issue I have not heard one word from Mr. Cowper at any time over these four years.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, since we have received the same information with respect to the court decision, does the Attorney General not understand that if we lose this case, it will be a licence for virtually every wrecker in the province who wants to demolish an apartment unit? I believe there are in excess of 1,000 apartment units currently on the application list for demolition in Toronto alone.

Since the purpose of the minister's so-called compromise Bill Pr13 was to try to prevent the demolition of the Eglinton Avenue buildings in his own constituency, and that purpose has been thwarted, what is he going to do now?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the first thing I am going to do is read the decision that has been referred to and determine whether there is a responsible way to introduce any further initiatives into this very unhappy situation without creating a law that is unworkable, unfair and unreasonable.

ACCIDENT AT FALCONBRIDGE

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour, concerning the death of four miners at Falconbridge in June of this year. I assume the minister has read the Sudbury Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' brief that was presented to him dealing with the incident.

Is the minister aware of the significance of some of the chronological events? Falconbridge was aware of unstable ground conditions in the immediate area of that rock burst since 1973. In 1981 Falconbridge installed a seismic recorder in that area to monitor heavy bumps in unstable ground. In 1981 a miner exercised his right to refuse to work in a fault area above the stope where the accident occurred.

In February 1982 a second raise was drilled using older and more expensive mining methods because of unstable ground. In June 1983 a company-union safety committee noted ground movement in the area and recommended scaling and repositing. In September 1983 a major rock burst occurred in that area.

In April 1984 when they started to mine that particular stope there was evidence of broken timbers in the raise leading to the stope as a result of rock pressure. In June 1984 a driller in that area was struck by falling fill or rock and a bump was reported in the 4,000-level area. On June 18, 1984, two days before the serious accident, a company-union safety committee visited the area and noted hazards in that area.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Laughren: Finally, in June, when the accident occurred, the seismic recorder was not functioning. It had been out of commission since the previous evening.

Given this remarkable chronology of events, why is it that the terms and conditions of the public inquiry the minister struck make no special reference to an accident that cost the lives of four miners?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the honourable member has brought that subject up because I would like to go back and provide a bit of history.

Following the tragic accident that was responsible for the lives of the four miners, there was a coroner's inquest. There was also an inquiry by the mine itself. There was a further rock burst at an Inco mine following that, fortunately at a time when there was no one in the mine. The operations were down because of holidays. Inco did a further inquiry, bringing in experts from the United States and other centres, as well as from Canada.

At that time, I asked an ad hoc committee if it would propose terms of reference to me for a full and immediate inquiry. The ad hoc committee was composed of representatives from the United Steelworkers, from the Sudbury Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers and from the third union involved in mining operations in Ontario, as well as representatives from the Ontario Mining Association, the Mines Accident Prevention Association and a representative of the industry at large.

We had equal representation and we appointed Trevor Stevenson chairman of that committee. I gave them X number of days to see if they could reach appropriate terms of reference among themselves. If they could not, then it would be my responsibility to do so. I thought it would be quite a refreshing development if these people could come to a proper conclusion themselves. To my extreme pleasure and delight they did. They set up the terms of reference for a full-scale inquiry, but one that will be done in a prescheduled length of time, not one that will drag on forever. It will look at rock bursts and rock mechanics.

The Mine, Mill union is represented on this committee. Incidentally, the committee had its first meeting in Sudbury last week or perhaps earlier this week. It held its first meeting in the past few days. The Mine, Mill brief was brought to me before that first meeting, because these gentlemen were worried that the terms of reference might not include these matters.

At that meeting, I gave them my assurance the matters they brought up in their brief would be looked at by the committee. I am, therefore, just a little confused about the reason for the question today, because I felt the mine mill gentlemen went away very pleased with my assurances and the audience they had received.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, because of the brief presented by Mine, Mill and because of the

strange sequence of events they have put together, since no experienced miner will work in that area and they have sent in two totally inexperienced men, and since the minister is willing to have it done, as he says he is prepared to, is he willing to add to the terms of reference in writing?

That should not be too much because he has already said he has guaranteed them. Far too frequently when committee meetings start, and I have been at plenty of them, somebody says, "That is not specifically in the terms of reference." To avoid any hassle, will the minister add that the particular accident will be investigated in all its aspects as part of the terms of reference?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I have been very pleased about the feeling of co-operation right from the beginning as we have gone about trying to set up this committee. I think it has been a model of employee-employer relations. When the Mine, Mill gentlemen came to see me, they left, I thought, with complete assurance that their concerns would be addressed. If they feel that such is not the case, I would be happy to talk to them again, but that is not my understanding at this time.

PETITIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"All our futures depend on the preservation of Ontario's education system. We, the students of Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology, feel strongly that both parties return to the bargaining table and reach an equitable solution."

It is signed by 881 students and I wish the minister could hear each one of these young students on why they are so frustrated about where their future rests.

3:50 p.m.

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Worton: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the Canadian Reformed School Society of Fergus and Guelph and District. It is in support of assistance for private schools. It is signed by 92 constituents from the Fergus-Guelph area and accompanied by a letter which has been previously read into the record.

MIDWIFERY

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition as follows:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario, as follows:

"Whereas Canada is the only western industrialized country in the world that does not have provisions for midwifery;

"Whereas among the industrialized countries of the world, the ones with the best birth outcomes in terms of low mortalities and morbidities are those with the largest proportions of midwives;

"Whereas the child-bearing families of Ontario are seeking alternatives and options to the present maternity care system;

"We petition the Ontario Legislature to amend the Health Disciplines Act to recognize midwifery as an independent health care profession under the Health Disciplines Act and to implement midwifery services in Ontario."

It is signed by more than 2,000 people.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Barlow from the standing committee on resources development reported the following resolution:

That supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Provincial Secretariat for Resources Development be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Resources Development policy program, \$3,649,700.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bills without amendment:

Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the London Regional Art Gallery;

Bill Pr30, An Act respecting the City of Belleville.

Your committee begs to report the following bills with certain amendments:

Bill Pr27, An Act respecting the City of Nepean;

Bill Pr32, An Act respecting the City of Ottawa.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the following substitutions be made: on the standing committee on resources development, Mr. Stokes for Mr. Lupusella; on the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments, Mr. Mackenzie for Mr. Swart; on the standing committee on social development, Mr. Allen for Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Cooke for Mr. R. F. Johnston.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

CITY OF TORONTO AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Peterson moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, first reading of Bill 128, An Act to amend the City of Toronto Act.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

RIGHT TO FARM ACT

Mr. Riddell moved second reading of Bill 87, An Act to protect Farming Operations against Nuisance Claims.

Mr. Speaker: I point out to the honourable member that he has 20 minutes to make his presentation. He may reserve any portion of that time for his windup. Other members wishing to address this debate have 10 minutes for their presentation.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, in all fairness to the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), I must say he did send his regrets across the House that he would be unable to be present during the debate on this bill as he had an appointment in London at six o'clock to meet with the Eastern Canadian Farm Writers' Association.

Let me give the members one example of the reason for the need of this legislation.

Not too many years ago a very prominent farmer in the Guelph area, who was also a former farmer in the Guelph area, who was also a former president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, was harvesting and drying his corn as

farmers are required to do to bring the moisture content down from what is generally 25 to 30 per cent to 17 per cent or lower. That allows for the safe-storing percentage of moisture that is required in the corn crop.

The farmer to whom I am referring received objections about drying his corn in what is considered to be a slow corn dryer. In other words, the dryer had to operate 24 hours of the day. His neighbour was objecting, phoning at all hours of the night and harassing this farmer. He complained about the noise of the corn dryer.

The noise generated by the corn dryer was considerably fewer decibels than that allowable in the city. I understand the noise of the corn dryer was less than the noise of the refrigerator which was operating in the home of the person who was objecting to the noise of the corn dryer.

However, the farmer was approached by a Ministry of the Environment official. In order to keep the thing out of the courts, which was going to consume time the farmer could not afford, the farmer ended up making very expensive changes to his corn dryer at considerable cost to himself.

This kind of harassment led me to introduce a resolution in the House in April 1982. The resolution read as follows:

"That in the opinion of this House, and as a result of the failure of the provincial Agricultural Code of Practice to protect farmers carrying on normal farming practices from harassment and restrictions, and as a result of the failure of the Food Land Guidelines to preserve agricultural land, the government should introduce an agricultural development and protection act to serve as a farmers' bill of rights which would: (a) conserve, protect and encourage the development and improvement of agricultural land for the production of food and other agricultural products, including alternative energy production through the establishment of agricultural reserves; (b) protect farmers from harassment and complaints from no-farm encroachment in the farming areas; (c) establish an agricultural approvals board to investigate complaints and make recommendations to the Minister of Agriculture and Food."

The minister has not seen fit to act on that resolution to this time, yet we see articles coming out in the daily papers, such as this article which appeared in the Hamilton Spectator on May 14, 1984, entitled, "Farmers Finding Right to Farm Challenged." I quote from that article:

"Farmers are increasingly finding themselves confronted by rural property owners and finding their right to farm challenged. Many of these

complaints are winding their way through the courts."

4 p.m.

A little farther on, the article reads: "Halton region is the new doorway to Metro Toronto, and much of its farm land is owned by speculators or the province. Being on the fringe between Toronto and Hamilton, there are many confrontations. A survey shows that nine per cent of the region's livestock operators receive complaints annually."

The example I gave of the farmer receiving objections to the corn dryer operating 24 hours a day is just one of many I could give of the type of harassment farmers are subjected to by those people who have chosen to move out into the country for some good old country environment and, all of a sudden, find they do not like the odour, the noise of machinery, the dust problems and so on.

Ontario is becoming more urbanized, and this trend has a dramatic effect on the agricultural community. While the total farm population in Ontario has declined to some 3.4 per cent of the total population, the total real population has remained fairly stable because of the increase of nonfarmers in agricultural areas.

The farm population represents only 22 per cent of the total rural population. The threat posed to farm land by suburbanization derives not only from the fact that some farms will be subdivided and sold, but also from the fact that the remaining farms may find it increasingly difficult to continue operating because of incompatibility with and opposition from interspersed suburban neighbours.

The purpose of this legislation is to encourage the preservation of the agricultural land by protecting farmers who carry on normal farming operations from nuisance lawsuits by nonfarm neighbours. This type of legislation has the support of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, which stated in its presentation to cabinet this past September:

"Quite often, after years of following widely accepted and practised production methods, operators have been forced to stop activities that create dust, noise or odour that offend land owners.

"These nuisance actions are creating problems for food producers in all parts of the province, but neither the Agricultural Code of Practice nor the Food Land Guidelines protect the right to produce food."

A dramatic change is needed in Ontario if we are to avoid serious conflicts between agriculture

and nonfarm interests. The cases of harassment, conflicts and aggravation for farmers have risen significantly over the years.

Already this year the Ministry of the Environment's farm pollution advisory committee, which is only brought in as a last resort, has had to deal with 10 complaints against farmers. At present the Ontario Federation of Agriculture is representing one farmer against whom a nuisance lawsuit has been filed and three or four more cases are pending.

For the agricultural industry to remain viable, farmers must be assured of their right to carry on normal farming practices free from harassment and restrictions.

The proposed Right to Farm Act provides that a farming operation may not be declared a nuisance if it "was established before the use of neighbouring land changed and was not a nuisance" when it began, even if conditions have changed in the area where the farm is located; it complies with the guidelines for the conduct of farming operations established by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and it "conforms to generally accepted practices for similar farming operations."

Some 30 states in the United States have enacted right-to-farm laws to resolve land use conflicts. These laws attempt to limit the situations in which an agricultural operator can be found liable for nuisance.

Generally speaking, well-managed commercial farms which do not threaten public health or safety are granted immunity from nuisance. The intent is to create an environment that is conducive to continued agricultural production by restricting interference from those objecting to normal farming practices.

The very existence of right-to-farm statutes discourages some actions from being initiated. This influence may prove crucial. It would make it clear to those moving into an agricultural area that they are not living in a park and they must be prepared to live with normal agricultural practices.

At present the farmer's only protection in this province is the Agricultural Code of Practice. This present code, however, has been dismissed by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture as a means of preventing farms from expanding or new farm construction from being undertaken on the grounds that such expansion would encroach on residential uses.

Some provisions of the code are too rigid, and the onus is always on the farmer to change his practices if problems arise; so the Agricultural

Code of Practice is failing to assist the farmers in their right to farm.

The minister or whoever is going to respond on behalf of the minister is likely to say, "Yes, but we have the Food Land Guidelines." Let me talk a little bit about the Food Land Guidelines. They state that priority agricultural land should be identified and designated in official plans. Within these agricultural designations, land uses that are not compatible with farm operations should not be permitted. Good farm land should not be fragmented. By keeping nonagricultural uses out of farming areas, nuisance complaints and conflicts between noncompatible uses will be avoided and there should be little need for right-to-farm laws.

We have all seen what the Food Land Guidelines have done to the preservation of agricultural land and the farmer's right to farm in this province. We need only look at the amount of land that has been lost in the Niagara fruit belt. We need only look at the amount of land that has been lost in the Mississauga area.

Reference is often made to the hole in the doughnut, the good farm land there that is going to be gobbled up by the city of Mississauga. We need only know about the land that Brampton is trying to take out of agriculture and put into other uses, and we see very little comment from the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) by way of supporting his own Food Land Guidelines on the land Brampton is trying to consume for residential and industrial purposes.

I am not going to say the Food Land Guidelines have been a total failure. I do know the Food Land Guidelines have been incorporated into the planning functions of many municipalities across this province. But I also know they have been a total failure in other areas, particularly in those urban areas that wish to expand. We find many of these urban areas are situated on some of the best agricultural land that is available in this province, so I really do not think the minister or his parliamentary assistant can stand in his place and say, "We already have right-to-farm laws because we have the Agricultural Code of Practice and the Food Land Guidelines."

They have not done the job in the past and they will not do the job in the future. Therefore, we need something a little stronger to give the farmer the right to farm and to keep good agricultural land in agriculture, and this is one of the reasons I am introducing this legislation and debating it on second reading.

The responsibility for dealing with nuisance concerns still rests with the farmer in Ontario. The right to complain is not influenced by the fact that the farmer's business is a lawful one and beneficial to the community or by the fact that it is carried on in a reasonable manner with care.

4:10 p.m.

If a complainant is successful in proving that a specific activity constitutes a nuisance, the court may order the farmer to stop the activity altogether or to take action to reduce its impact. The type of restrictions the court has authority to enact may reduce the farmer's flexibility in future decisions related to his management practices.

Agricultural producers are sometimes forced to cease operations. Many others are discouraged from making investments in farm improvements. For the agricultural industry to remain viable, farmers must be assured of their right to carry on normal farming practices free from harassment and restriction.

I think I have given sufficient reasons for the need for a farmers' bill of rights and for the farmer's right to carry on normal farming practices. I expect it will be the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Food who will be responding. The member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil) is a farmer himself. He knows what I am talking about. He has probably had farmers contact him about the harassment they have been subjected to in connection with their normal farming practices.

This bill is the type of thing that will stop some of these frivolous objections, not that the public should not have the right to object if it feels something is really wrong, and not that the public should not have the right to go to court if it feels that is the only place where it can get the problems resolved. However, it may well stop some of the frivolous objections to the normal farming practices farmers have to conduct if they are expected to continue to produce the high-quality food at reasonable prices which the consumers of this province enjoy.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, as a member who comes from the Niagara Peninsula where we have all types of farming spray equipment, bird bangers and everything that farmers use anyplace in this province, I am going to support this bill.

I want to say immediately to the Conservative members over on the other side of the House that I hope on this bill they will vote as independent members.

I heard the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) earlier today during question period when he

referred to us as a bunch of lemmings. I want to say that if there has been any demonstration of lemmings or sheep this fall, it has been by the members over on that side of the House on private members' bills from this side of the House, getting up to block them even though they agreed with them.

I hope the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel (Mr. J. M. Johnson), the member for Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry (Mr. Villeneuve), the member for Hastings-Peterborough (Mr. Pollock) and the member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) over there, who have large farm communities, will get up and vote in favour of this bill. I hope some of them will get up and speak in favour of it as well.

I recognize that this legislation has its pros and cons, as most legislation does. I want to examine all the dimensions, including some the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) did not examine. Having said that, the bill does deserve support. Members who represent rural ridings at least ought to stand up and vote in support of this bill.

The growing problem farmers face to a very large extent is due to the lack of courage of municipal councils throughout this province in saying no to development in rural areas and to urbanites locating in rural areas. The province gave no leadership to encourage municipalities to bring in the zoning bylaws that would have prevented the existing situation, which causes a very real conflict.

I recognize that some of the members of councils, particularly if they had a lot of Conservatives and a sprinkling of Liberals among their members, said, "People should have the right to do as they like with farm land when they own it." A lot of them did, and they sold off frontages. Urbanites came out and bought them in good faith. Then conflicts arose.

I was on the Thorold township council for 18 years and reeve of it for 12 years. I can tell members about one land owner, a farmer, who sold off several lots at the front of his farm. He got that kind of harassment and then came to council to complain about the harassment he was getting from the urbanites, after he had sold it off himself. Fair enough. He was within his rights selling it off because the municipality had not taken any stand. It had not passed the necessary bylaws to prevent these conflicts from arising.

Many home owners bought that land in good faith. They did not contravene any municipal bylaws. They bought that land in accordance with the laws of that municipality and built their

homes. They felt they had a right. If there were nuisances, very severe ones, they thought they had a right to complain to the municipality.

When debating this, we must realize there are two parts to the growing problem. One is the change in the methods of farming, the amount of sprays and the variety of sprays and chemicals which are being used on the farms to which the urban neighbours object if their houses are close to the fields. Machinery has become heavier and noisier.

When I was on the farm in my youth, two horses and a plough did not make much noise, nor did the other equipment drawn by horses. With large equipment it is noisier now and it is a nuisance. Many farmers have to work in the evenings or at night if they are to have a successful operation. Then the neighbours complain and they are exercising their right.

There are more smells today. The larger pieces of equipment make more dust. We do have more nuisance generated by the farmer in his normal operations, which he must carry out. On the other hand, we have a society which is less willing to tolerate those nuisances. So we have these inevitable conflicts on the farms. It is an irreconcilable conflict. I recognize it as that. I also recognize that in some instances neither the farmer nor the urban dweller is at fault.

There will be an imposition and some unfairness if the government takes any action on this matter. The Ontario Federation of Agriculture realizes this is a very real problem. They have taken very strong stands recently about severances. They are now saying there should be no severances. They say: "We have enough problems now. Let us not build any more urban residences in the rural areas."

Unfortunately, it is already too late. Many rural municipalities now have a majority of urbanites living within the rural municipality. There is no question about that. When they have that, one cannot expect the councils in those municipalities, who are looking at the number of votes involved, as all politicians do. I like to think there are some politicians who do stick to principles even when there are votes involved, but generally speaking, politicians look at the votes, so they are not going to legislate for the farmer.

Most municipal councils now, where there is a majority of urban dwellers, legislate against the farmer and for the urbanite if they have the majority of the votes in their area. The only answer is that the province must act as the

member for Huron-Middlesex has said. That is the reason we have the bill before us.

4:20 p.m.

In spite of the recognition of this conflict, I strongly support the bill. Although it has some inadequacies, I strongly support it for three reasons.

First, most of the urban dwellers who now are in rural communities knew when they bought or built their places that they were going into farm communities. There is some obligation on their part to realize the problems that are going to exist there.

Second, there is the hardship created at present for many farmers by the harassment they experience and, incidentally, by legislation that may be enacted by municipalities. The Wiley brothers in St. Catharines had part of their farm almost put out of business because of a bylaw the municipality was about to pass. They may even have passed it and then rescinded it. The member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) will know about that.

The farmer is hurt the most if we do not do something; he can be put out of business, while the urbanite is generally subjected just to nuisances. I realize that something such as a bird banger going all night can be something of a real nuisance if one is a light sleeper. Having said that, though, it is the farmer who has the most to suffer.

Third, I support this bill because we have to preserve the right for our best agricultural land to be used. If we permit the harassment and stop the agricultural use of land that is close to urban houses, we are going to lose a lot of land in this province that is good farm land and should be farmed.

I have some reservations about the effectiveness of this bill. I would like to comment on the clauses, but there is no time. I hope this will pass the Legislature and go to a committee for further consideration.

Mr. J. M. Johnson: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to have the opportunity to participate in the debate on the bill brought forward by the member for Huron-Middlesex.

My own riding has a large number of farmers and I know that many of my colleagues from rural ridings are also quite aware of the concerns about the nuisance claims that have been mentioned by the honourable member.

Like all of us here, I think it is absolutely unfair for farmers to have to justify their right to farm. Naturally, no one would admit that he is opposed to that concept, but it happens, perhaps

inadvertently through lack of knowledge of farming operations or perhaps because of selfish interests.

In my own riding, some new residents who come from urban areas have complained to me about the smell of freshly spread manure. They do not realize that to have the pleasure of smelling freshly mown hay, they must be prepared to put up with the manure.

That is a simple example of misunderstanding farming operations in a rural community, but we have many more. Late-night operation of machinery during planting and harvesting seasons, slow-moving machinery on country roads, line fences, control of animals, property trespass and many others may have a nuisance value, but if carried to an extreme, can develop into an issue that ends up in the courts and creates bad neighbours.

Another major concern I have is of a political nature. I have 12 townships in my riding and each of those townships has a locally elected council. At present, the farmers make up the majority of the population of those townships, but in the very near future some of the townships, the ones closest to the large urban centres, will see a change in the makeup of their populations.

The day will come when the nonfarmers outnumber the farmers. At that time the balance of power in the township council could change. Bylaws could be passed by nonfarmers that would be detrimental to the traditional farming practices of the area. It might never happen, but provincial legislation should be in place to ensure that it does not.

If our urban population wants to continue to be able to enjoy its food at the very reasonable prices it has been paying in the past, it will support our farmers in their struggle to have the right to farm without undue government red tape and harassment by ill-informed individuals.

Many of the problems I have mentioned or that other members have made reference to could be avoided if more urban people, moving into a rural environment, were knowledgeable about the farming practices in the area. However, to be realistic we must accept the fact that, human nature being what it is, some people will always have reasons to complain, perhaps rightly so. Therefore, we need legislation to protect both parties from abuse.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture has set out some excellent recommendations to cabinet to address these issues. The OFA's brief to cabinet this year included a number of recom-

mentations intended to reduce the pressures on rural land use in Ontario.

One proposal recommended that the government should protect farmers from legal action based on criticism of accepted agricultural practice, and the bill before us today is an attempt to do that very thing.

Another recommendation of the OFA was that the government should develop an effective system to investigate farm pollution complaints, including the power to assess costs and levy fines. The bill before us today does not have anything to say about this aspect even though the two points are related.

The OFA brief also made some other recommendations that have been associated with right-to-farm legislation but are not mentioned in this bill. The first was for an agriculture conservation board to deal with planning efforts. The second would allow land owners to designate their property an agriculture reserve; this designation would exempt the property from the local municipality's official plan. Finally, the OFA asked that notifications of severance applications be sent to local federations for comment.

As members can see, these points are not in the bill even though they have been dealt with in right-to-farm legislation in other jurisdictions such as the states of New York and Washington. A New York state statute includes a section saying basically that, as a general rule, an owner is at liberty to use his property as he sees fit without obligation to or interference from his neighbour, provided that such use does not violate an ordinance or statute, and that no local government shall pass legislation restricting this use. I think that addresses the point I raised earlier. This does specifically exclude operations that involve negligent or improper management, just as Bill 87 excludes negligent operation and those who do not conform to generally accepted practice.

Two other OFA proposals mentioned planning in general and the issue of severances in particular. Right-to-farm legislation in the state of Washington does not apply to an operator who sells the contiguous portion of his property for residential purposes. The statute recognizes that the farmer himself is often responsible for maintaining land in production.

Severances of farm land often take place to provide a home for a farmer who wishes to retire to a house on his farm or to provide accommodation for full-time help. While the occupants of such residential lots would not be likely to

complain about smells and noise caused by the operations of the farm, there is no guarantee that after a time the houses would not be sold. If the future owners tended to come from nonfarm backgrounds, then nuisance claims could result.

My main concern with this bill is section 3, which allows the Minister of Agriculture and Food to establish guidelines for the conduct of farming operations in this province. That section is so open-ended that I believe many farmers would be uncomfortable not knowing what sort of guidelines could be expected. What is equally bad is that under clause 2(a) these guidelines would be given the force of law.

In summary, while the intent of this bill is good, it does have some very serious problems. We should congratulate the member for Huron-Middlesex for attempting to deal with the right-to-farm issue, but we should realize that the problem with the bill is that it goes too far in one sense and not far enough in another.

4:30 p.m.

Section 3 and clause 2(a) allow the minister to set any number of conditions for the conduct of farming operations. Section 3 sets only very broad limits concerning what the guidelines should cover. I believe many people would have been more comfortable had this section been more specific and listed certain aspects that should be dealt with. However, the way Bill 87 is drafted, section 3 gives the minister and his ministry excessive powers that I do not think even the member who introduced this bill intended.

Because the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) is now Minister of Agriculture and Food, I understand the member for Huron-Middlesex would have no qualms about giving that minister this extraordinary power. Heaven forbid if the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) were ever to assume that post: our farming community would grind to a halt.

Mr. McGuigan: Does the member really think that is going to happen?

Mr. J. M. Johnson: I am sorry the member for Welland-Thorold left.

I do not subscribe to the theory that big government is best; in fact, the less government the better. This bill gives one individual, one ministry and the bureaucrats in that ministry the power to control the farming operations in Ontario. As my colleague the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor) has commented, he would be an agricultural czar. "A bureaucratic nightmare" I think was the term he used.

Since this bill cannot be amended, I ask the member for Huron-Middlesex to withdraw it, as it cannot be supported in its present form. In closing, may I reiterate my support for right-to-farm legislation and assure this House that I will continue to work with our Minister of Agriculture and Food to implement such legislation after full consultation with our farm organizations and local councils.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my colleague in the presentation of Bill 87.

I would like to pause for a minute and say that overall farm policy in Canada and Ontario really has been to supply safe, nutritious food to the people of Canada and Ontario at affordable prices, while at the same time providing a reasonable return to the farmer for his investment and labour. Today we have many people wanting to impinge upon that grand policy. There are many people outside the agricultural industry who are saying, "We want to control the way this policy works." For that reason, the member for Huron-Middlesex, our agriculture critic, has introduced this very worthy bill.

Some of the things we are talking about today are production of agriculture, co-operatives and agribusinesses, the financial industry, the political environment and government policy, business technology and human resources trends, but we are really zeroing in today on the production. I cannot help mentioning how other things affect agriculture.

In Canada we have had a reasonable system—although none of us would agree that it was perfect—of trying to distribute the wealth of this country between the haves and have-nots. Today we find that forces outside our control, interest rates made largely in the United States, are destroying that system because those interest rates work in favour of the haves and against the have-nots. In Canada today something like one third of the farmers, who produce about two thirds of the food, are being grievously hurt by those interest rates. I just mention that to show how forces outside of agricultural policy are coming in and doing us a great deal of harm.

Last summer, in company with other members of the Legislature, I visited Nova Scotia and made a side trip over to Newfoundland. We visited some of the fishing villages of Newfoundland whose source of income is almost totally from fishing.

The people there told us how this last summer, for the first time in the memory of the fishermen and villagers, the seals were coming up the rivers

and streams and attacking the salmon. Of course, the salmon go up there to spawn and that is the source of the salmon fishery. That situation has come about because of the total ban on the taking of seals for their pelts. These animals have exploded in number and they eat something like 30 pounds of fish a day. They are impinging upon the food supply and the living of those people.

The same people who succeeded in getting the ban on sealing now are attacking the fur industry, the hunting industry. They do it with unlimited amounts of money from well-meaning, generous people who give them blank cheques. There are no checks on how they spend the money. They are given vast amounts of money and allowed to go their way.

We were told in Newfoundland that when these groups of people came, they camped with the most beautiful, expensive, luxurious camping equipment made by the people in that business. When they had finished their visit and had disrupted things, they simply walked away and left all that valuable equipment. There was even a helicopter destroyed and they made no attempt to salvage it. They just walked away from it. That is the kind of money that is being put into these areas.

These people's next attack is going to be on how we conduct our animal-raising and poultry-raising businesses. We do not for a minute condone anyone who would hurt or destroy or treat badly their animals. As farmers, we do not condone that for one minute. We have developed scientific ways of producing food using animals. They are in the care of veterinarians, and it is all ruled upon by government people. We allow the animals to be inspected and we are willing to take any reasonable criticism.

We do not want to have people come in who have no interest other than in keeping that money flowing and getting the headlines so that well-meaning people will keep that money flowing to them and they can live a life of luxury without having to account for that money and without having to have auditors come in and work on them. They simply use it in the grand manner.

We do need some controls upon agriculture. We have to control the way we use our pesticides, our fertilizers and our soils. We in agriculture may be the first environmentalists. Who knows better than a farmer how his livelihood depends upon the maintenance of his soil, of his animals and of our entire environment? Occasionally, pressures are put upon us to meet the competition from lands where they do

not have that same respect for the soil and where there are a great many government subsidies to enable them to put products on our market more cheaply than we can.

Let me remind members that in spite of all the stories told about farmers and subsidies, Canadian and Ontarian agriculture is the least-subsidized agriculture in the world, bar none, unless one is talking about Ethiopia or some of those places where the governments totally ignore farming to the terrible destruction of their own population.

4:40 p.m.

I have had some personal experience. Being a farmer and a fruit grower, I do not have the same attitude towards birds that poets, artists and naturalists do. They like to rhyme about them, to paint them and to view them. While they get all the benefits of those birds, I get the cost of feeding them. These people do not contribute any subsidy to me as the feeder. The birds love to eat the cherries out of my orchard.

I must confess I have developed somewhat of an aversion to these avian friends. In fact, if the truth really comes out, I detest blackbirds and starlings. My friend the member for Lincoln knows of what I speak. Even the Robin Redbreast is in that category. We read that poem when we were in public school.

I think the students in the gallery today use a different textbook than I did as a child in public school, but there was a story in it about Robin Redbreast. At that time I was rather conned into thinking Robin Redbreast was a nice fellow, but I am not so sure of that today when I see him eating my cherries and destroying them.

One might think we exaggerate this. We do have methods, as has been mentioned by the member for Welland-Thorold, of scaring these birds because we have given up trying to shoot them. In my younger days I used to think I could shoot them but I found that for every one I shot, three, four or a dozen relatives came to the funeral and stayed to dine upon my cherries without even a "Thank you."

Today we have devices to scare these birds, but on a couple of occasions I have had the cherry crop destroyed by wind or rain. It only takes a little bit of wind or rain to do that, so we immediately stop our efforts to scare the birds out.

This is the test of the efficiency of our system because when we are fighting the birds—

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The honourable member's time has expired.

Mr. McGuigan: —we can hold our losses down to about five per cent. When we move the equipment out, in two to three days the crop will disappear entirely. I wish to support my colleague.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Algoma has seven minutes.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support Bill 87 introduced by the member for Huron-Middlesex.

There are, as the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel has said, two sides to this. In the past, when we debated the issue of the right to farm legislation in this House I have always been reminded that one of the main reasons for the concern that has given rise to these proposals for legislation is the fact that more and more people who are not farmers are moving into the agricultural areas, into the rural areas of this province.

They are not themselves actively involved in farming or in businesses that are indirectly related to agriculture. Many of these people do not have the same understanding others do of farming methods and the need for certain types of farming techniques. They then, as they become more numerous in farming areas, raise concerns about certain things they consider to be annoyances. If they become the majority in some small municipalities, on some occasions they have even passed bylaws that make it very difficult for farmers to carry on a profitable operation.

When I think of that, I am reminded that many of those people have been able to move into farming areas. Some, I suppose, have very wealthy rural estates because they have been able to purchase property from farmers. I am not suggesting they should not be able to do that, but I think many of the farmers should realize that some of the problems they face in dealing with these kinds of people arise because they themselves, perhaps out of necessity, have sold land on which these people have built their houses.

Perhaps along with that, it is the responsibility of the farming community to do some educating among these people to indicate to them before they get into a position of power at the local level what the requirements of modern farming are so they do not run into these kinds of confrontations between nonfarm residents of rural areas and the farming community.

In response to the member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel, if the member for Welland-Thorold were in the happy situation of having some say over land use planning in rural Ontario, I am sure he would have a good deal of influence

over the preservation of agricultural land. He would ensure that no strip development would occur in rural areas, as it has in the past, so we would not have many nonrural residents living right in what would normally be a farming area.

Unfortunately, farming is almost incidental in some rural areas of this province, especially if they are near urban centres. There are little pockets of crop cultivation among housing developments. I think that is really a crime. I would hope all members of this House would support the efforts of the member for Welland-Thorold in his attempt to preserve the agricultural land in his part of the province.

The other side of the coin is that farmers today are often operating much larger farms than they used to. They are using new techniques and more intensive kinds of farming methods that involve long hours. Sometimes these longer hours involve noisy machinery. Some farming operations involve some odours that people from urban areas may not be used to and so they raise concerns.

If people are going to move into a rural area because they want to enjoy the benefits of country living, they must be prepared to put up with the so-called nuisances that are part and parcel of farming. If they are not prepared to put up with those nuisances, they should not move to those areas in the first place.

As some members have said, farmers today are in very serious difficulties. We have seen the increase in farm bankruptcies in this province. Farmers are caught in the squeeze between high interest rates and low prices and between the high cost of capital and the poor return on their product, management and labour.

When they face these kinds of problems, I do not think farmers should be subjected to demands to curtail their operations by well-meaning people who do not understand the requirements of modern agriculture.

For that reason, I support the principle of this bill.

It would be more apropos, however—and I am sure the member for Huron-Middlesex would agree with me—if we were debating something in this House today to deal with the really serious problems facing farmers in the financial area, the problems of the red meat industry and the stabilization program.

I hope it will not be too much longer before we see the Minister of Agriculture and Food, who is campaigning for the leadership of his party and to be Premier of this province, introduce needed legislation to stabilize farm incomes, especially

in the red meat sector. I would like to see him stop using the federal government's reticence in this area as an excuse for inaction.

For those reasons, I support the proposed bill and I would hope we will move forward with right to farm legislation quickly.

The Acting Speaker: The member for Huron-Middlesex has two minutes.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the members on all sides for supporting in principle legislation that would give the farmers of this province the right to carry on normal, non-negligent farming practices.

The member for Wellington-Dufferin-Peel pointed out some concerns he had with my bill. I share those concerns, but as private members we do not have the expertise to draft legislation. Also, as private members we really do not ever expect our bills to go beyond second reading.

4:50 p.m.

However, we do hope that through debate we can convince the ministers of the crown there is a need for legislation and that they should be introducing legislation incorporating the recommendations we make through our debate.

I think all members in this House would agree that in addition to high input costs, low commodity prices and the decline in land values, farmers do not need to be subjected to urbanites who come to the farm to complain about noise, odours and whatever else.

We are not the only ones who understand the hardships faced by farmers. If I may become a little poetic, I will try to explain what I mean:

A man knocked on the Pearly Gates,

His face was scarred and old.

He stood before the man of fate

For admission to the fold.

"What have you done," St. Peter said,

"To gain admission here?"

"I have been a farmer," the man replied,

"For nigh on 60 years."

The Pearly Gates swung open wide

As Peter touched the bell.

"Come in and choose your harp," he said,

"You've had your share of hell."

Mr. Villeneuve: Mr. Speaker, I want to express my sincere congratulations to the member for Huron-Middlesex. He is addressing a very deep and serious problem in rural Ontario. These people represent less than three per cent of the population and feed us all; it is very important that they are looked after and looked after well.

Section 3 of this bill concerns me. It gives the Minister of Agriculture and Food absolute power over all agriculture, which should not occur.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Cooke moved second reading of Bill 48, An Act to establish Midwifery as a Self-Governing Health Profession.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): The member has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation. He may reserve any portion thereof for final wrapup.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the midwives' coalition, which has worked with my office and with research staff in the New Democratic Party over the last number of months in order to proceed with this bill, along with Mary Rowles, who is my former legislative assistant, and Janis Sarra, who worked in our research department.

They educated me and encouraged me on the matter. I decided it was an important issue and should be presented for debate in the Legislature.

Canada is one of only nine countries in the World Health Organization which has no provision for midwifery in its health care system. Other countries that do not have provisions are basically Third World countries such as Venezuela, Panama, New Hebrides, Honduras, El Salvador, Dominican Republic and Colombia.

Legislation on midwifery has become a public concern in this province and in this country in the last decade. Since it was introduced in April, the response to my bill has simply been overwhelming.

The fact that many people are here in the galleries today to support the bill, the fact that hundreds of people have written to me since I introduced the bill and the fact that today I presented a petition with more than 2,000 names in support of this bill and the concept of legalized midwifery proves there is widespread support for the development of birthing alternatives in this province.

Midwifery has had a long, interrupted history of concern in Canada. In 1865, an act of Parliament placed midwifery under the jurisdiction of the medical practitioners. However, because there was terrific and widespread support for midwives at that time, the legislation did not have a negative effect for nearly 60 years.

The decline of midwifery began at the beginning of this century. The decline was not due to inferior practices or lack of safety. Instead, the decline paralleled the rise in the number of medical doctors and a trend towards the medical model and institutions, namely hospitals. The decline had nothing to do with safety.

In 1933, a study determined that rural women, who at the time still used midwives to a much greater extent than city folk, were statistically safer than their city counterparts. By 1940, however, midwives had virtually disappeared with the exception of isolated northern communities and Newfoundland.

The definition of midwifery is that a midwife is a person who has successfully completed the prescribed course of studies in midwifery and has acquired the prerequisite qualifications to be registered and legally licensed to practise midwifery. She must be able to give the necessary supervision, care and advice to women during pregnancy, labour and the post-partum period, and to conduct deliveries on her own responsibility and to care for the newborn.

This care includes preventive measures, the detection of abnormal conditions in mother and child, the procurement of medical assistance and the execution of emergency measures in the absence of medical help. She has an important task in health counselling and education, not only for patients but also with the family and the community. The work involves educating the family in preparation for parenthood.

Midwifery is often equated with home births. This is not the case. Midwives can practise in hospitals and at birthing centres as well as at home. Midwives are the internationally recognized experts for normal births, and I emphasize "normal births." Their focus is prevention and education during the prenatal period, particularly exercise and lifestyle measures such as the avoidance of alcohol and tobacco.

Midwives seek to minimize intervention such as drugs and surgery during the course of a normal birth. Midwives provide holistic care, attending to emotional and social needs as well as physical and medical needs. The care is family centred.

The bottom line is that she provides continuous personalized care from conception through pregnancy, labour, birth and the post-partum period. She does not provide assembly-line medicine or care. She provides individualized care tailored to meet the needs of each expectant mother.

Infant mortality rates demonstrate the safety of midwives. In 1981, in Canada there were 9.6 deaths per 1,000 for newborns. In Sweden the rate was 7, in the Netherlands it was 8.2 and in the United States it was 11.7. Of those four countries, the two countries that do not have extensive use of midwives or universal accessibility to midwives are Canada and the US.

Sweden consistently rates the best in the world for birth outcomes and every pregnant woman is under the care of a midwife. In the Netherlands, 38 per cent deliver under the guidance of midwives and it has the second-best rate. Canada and the US, as I said, lack universal access to midwives and have higher infant mortality rates.

I want to refer to the cost-effectiveness of the use of midwives. One consistent argument against the legalization of midwifery has been cost. It has been seen as an add-on to the medical or health care system. The reality is it will not be an add-on; it will be a replacement. Women who have had an option and women who would have an option for normal pregnancies would go to midwives if they chose. Eventually there would be a decrease in demand for obstetricians and, therefore, there would be a replacement of some obstetricians by midwives as the demand decreased for one and increased for the other. As to nurses in the hospital, there would be a replacement.

However, there need not be an add-on cost. In reality, midwives are much less expensive than doctors and, after the phase-in period, money could be saved in the health care system.

Community colleges would not have to spend more money for training. They would simply shift because midwives or nurse midwives could perform the role now performed by nurses in hospitals. Through the use of midwives and birthing centres, cost savings can be achieved. Studies indicate that by using midwives there can be a 40 per cent reduction in costs.

5 p.m.

Ontario's health care system is much too reliant on doctors and the medical model. Our system does not use nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers, psychologists, physiotherapists and registered nursing assistants to the level of their training. The whole system emphasizes doctors and institutions to the extent that money is wasted and care is less than could be achieved. There is widespread support for change, not just in the midwifery area but in many other areas of our health care system. Changes must be made to meet the demands of consumers before we bankrupt the health care system. We must take the control of our health care system out of the hands of a few and put it back into the hands of the people who pay the bill, namely, the consumers and the taxpayers.

Today in the Legislature we have a chance to give a message to the health professions legislation review committee that this Legislature feels there should be changes and options and that one

of those changes and options should be the legalization of midwifery in this province. If we pass this bill in principle today it does not mean that tomorrow midwives will become a legalized profession in this province. It simply means that when the health professions legislation review committee reports to the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton), we are hoping that Alan Schwartz will be including this provision.

We will also be saying we feel many other professionals, including the ones I have mentioned, can provide a very important service in our province and that we can no longer rely on doctors to the extent we have because, first, the result is high costs; second, the result is assembly-line medicine; and third, in the long run, health care system costs are going to be so out of control we will be hearing from Conservatives and other people in the province that we need to add on more user fees and more charges because the costs are rising so quickly.

The reason the costs are so high is our emphasis on the medical model and doctors. When we start looking at birthing centres, at the use of other professionals and at the use of community health clinics, then we will be taking our health care system in the right direction; then we will be putting our system back into the control of communities rather than just of doctors; then we will have those alternatives that are so necessary in our province if we are to get beyond health insurance and get to a real system of medicare. When those systems are in place, our system can improve and we can talk about add-ons.

I have not taken even half my time. I want to listen to comments from other members of the Legislature and I will reserve the rest of my time for the end of the debate.

Mr. Nixon: Oh, here is another bachelor.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join this debate. Apropos of the point my friend the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk just made, it has been suggested that I should perhaps yield the floor to the member for Renfrew South (Mr. Yakabuski), who is the father of 14 children and has a much more practical knowledge of this whole area than I do.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Barlow): Excuse me. I would like to interrupt the member for Brantford, if I may. I would like to remind the people in the gallery that we cannot allow applause or any other demonstration whatsoever. We would like to keep to that rule.

Mr. Gillies: I assure you I will not be distracted by the baby ducks or anything like that. I find it quite a welcome diversion.

While there are members in the general vicinity who have a much more practical knowledge of the birthing process than I do, I do bring a certain degree of sympathy to this bill and to its introduction by the member for Windsor-Riverside (Mr. Cooke), I believe, inasmuch as I was born in Great Britain, where midwifery is well established and a venerable profession. Of the four children in my parents' family, only one was born in a hospital and three of us, including me, were born at home with midwives present.

I want to make clear at the outset my very strong suspicion that, if the member had brought in a resolution regarding this profession and calling for an expeditious examination of same by the health professions legislation review team, it would pass unanimously. So while I am expressing a lot of sympathy and support for what the member is saying, as I noted earlier, I would like to look at the specifics of the bill and point to a couple of specific problems that may make it difficult for all members to support it.

This bill proposes to amend the Health Disciplines Act to establish a new section governing midwives. Currently, part III of the Health Disciplines Act defines the practice of medicine in such a fashion that it has been assumed only physicians could deliver a baby. Notwithstanding the difficulties involved with implementation, there are many merits, as I have just noted, to the consideration of the idea of midwifery.

The midwives' coalition has argued midwives can provide optimal care because in the first instance they are specialists in normal births, which constitute the majority of births. This allows the midwives to fill in the gap between the general practitioners, who are not birthing specialists, and the obstetricians, who specialize in high-risk or abnormal births.

Second, midwives are specially trained in various aspects of pregnancies in respect of education, counselling, diagnosis, delivery management, risk assessment and general support. Through these functions, I believe the midwife is able to meet the physical, emotional and psychological needs of the mother.

Third, midwives can provide continuous care to the mother and child throughout the pregnancy in terms of education and advice, which allows them to develop a trusting relationship with the client. This is something for which the present health care system does not always provide.

Finally, midwives have argued Canada is one of only nine member countries in the World Health Organization that do not provide for

midwifery in their health care system. The midwives have also argued the allowance of midwifery would broaden the options available to pregnant women.

While not wishing to detract from the merits of midwifery or from the bill of the member for Windsor-Riverside, the government, on the other hand, has voiced a few reservations.

The purpose of Bill 48 is to establish midwifery as a self-governing health profession. Yet the Ministry of Health at present is undertaking a review of all health disciplines under the guidance of Mr. Alan Schwartz. This legislative review was organized in order to prepare new health professions legislation. It will be making recommendations to the ministry about which health professions should be regulated by statute and how the present statutes governing the professions should be updated.

This review is examining exactly the types of issues that Bill 48 attempts to address. The following are just some of the issues the review is discussing in relation to the health professions.

Is there a need to ensure regulation through the Ministry of Health? Is there evidence this profession could regulate itself? Is there a need for statutes to define the scope of practice and if so, what is that scope? What about the questions of entry standards, certification and licensing procedures? Will there be jurisdictional overlap? To whom will the profession be accountable? Will there be a disciplinary procedure and if so, what will it be?

These questions are being considered in relation to all health disciplines in a comprehensive manner, and each profession has the opportunity to comment on the submissions of the others.

The midwives' coalition has submitted two excellent briefs to the review. The Ontario Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Ontario Nursing Association, the College of Nurses of Ontario and the Registered Nurses Association of Ontario all have had the opportunity to comment on these submissions.

The review has not yet been completed. I suggest it would be premature for this bill to be passed until the review has made its recommendations to the Ministry of Health. Within this context, all professions may be considered simultaneously.

Furthermore, discussions taking place within the review procedure make it clear we need to consider very carefully a number of ramifications created by the placement of midwives within the

health care system. Discussion and planning are needed in order to examine how midwifery will affect the existing system. To quote a brief to the review: "We need to take into account existing practice. We need a carefully planned and co-ordinated strategy to avoid duplicating services and increasing costs."

The duplication of services is a significant issue and a new type of health care provider in birthing may produce an overlap, and I stress "may produce an overlap," in terms of service.

5:10 p.m.

At present it is not clear whether a pregnant woman would choose to use solely a midwife for prenatal care and advice or to use both a midwife and a physician. Second, it is not clear that she would be given the opportunity to use both.

This brings into focus the question of how midwives would fit into the team approach to obstetrics. This team approach is felt to be important with regard to the wellbeing of the mother and child. Any change to this approach would require close association with other health and social work professions. I am sure members are aware that in many of our communities now, there is a social work side to the whole birthing process including counselling and follow-up, especially with high-risk families.

At present it is unclear how statutory regulation would deal with this. The midwives have argued they should have full hospital admitting privileges, primary contact with the mother and should only have to consult with or refer to a physician where there are medical problems. Both the Ontario Medical Association and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario have argued that if midwives were allowed to practise, they should do so only under the direction or supervision of a physician. I am not saying I agree with the position of the OMA or the college on that. I do think though that it is a very serious question that will have to be looked at in the context of the health professions legislation review.

Another area that is unclear at present is that of costs and benefits. For example, would midwives' fees represent a clear saving over the Ontario health insurance plan payments currently being made to physicians for normal birthing? I would have to assume they would.

The problem of institutions and training facilities also raises the issue of overlapping jurisdictions. The nursing profession has argued the minimum requirement for entry into the practice of midwifery should be basic nursing preparation with advanced preparation in order to

practise midwifery. In effect, this would make midwifery a specialty within the nursing profession.

The midwives' coalition has argued that midwifery and nursing are separate disciplines and training is not necessarily similar. They feel midwives are focusing on the birthing process and therefore do not need general nursing training.

The questions of certification, licensing and disciplinary procedures need to be addressed with regard to the interaction with other health professions.

Finally, the issue of midwifery needs to be placed in the context of existing legislation. How will the establishment of midwifery within the health care system affect the Public Hospitals Act and how will it affect the health insurance procedures within the province? The position I am taking is not one of rejection of the possibility of midwifery. It is simply one of deferral. I would like to wait for the report from the health professions legislation review before proceeding with consideration of legal midwifery.

In the closing seconds, I would suggest to the honourable member that he has my sympathy. He has a degree of support from me for the principle of what he is suggesting, but I think the introduction of legislation at this time is premature in view of the health professions review. For that reason, I will not be standing in support of the honourable member's bill.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, it seems to me the bachelor member for Brantford is overlooking the function of second reading of a piece of legislation.

We are concerned with the overall principle of the legislation. As the member well knows, we will go through it clause by clause at a later stage of this debate and discuss the advantages and disadvantages. The positive and negative parts of the clauses can be dealt with at that time. What we are looking for here is an overall statement of principle and a debate on principle. Is it desirable or is it not?

We have to begin with one fundamental principle. It is purely coincidental that I note in today's Toronto Star an article headed "Obstetrical Myths Should Be Examined," written by Dr. Howard Seiden. I will not go through them all, but the key one I want to direct my attention to is this one line: "Uncomplicated pregnancy is not an illness."

Pregnant women are not sick people. Pregnancy is a normal, human function. The problem in our arguments in opposition here is that we are

treating pregnancy and the pregnant woman as if we were talking about sickness, disease, something that needs medical attention. That is the crux of the whole argument.

What we are saying here is a woman should have the right to choose how she will be assisted, supported and advised during her pregnancy and how she will be assisted during her delivery. That is the issue. I think we have to clearly say in this House that we must provide more options than those available at the present time. That is why I support this piece of legislation.

I would also draw to the attention of the members of the government party, what is being proposed here is entirely consistent with several directions which this government has taken and proposed over the last few years. Let us just review them.

I notice the member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch) is in her seat. The member was recently the Provincial Secretary for Social Development. The member will remember, as will her colleagues, that one of the main thrusts of her tenure was family support, development and care. That is basically what we are talking about here, because one of the primary directions of midwifery is the involvement of the whole family. The whole family is involved anyway; mother, father, children, brothers, sisters are all involved in the process. That is something which does not and cannot take place when we treat it as a medical problem. That is one of the directions of this government and therefore this should be supported.

Second, I have in my hand a statement the current Minister of Health made to the district health councils on September 20 this year. That is just a little over a month ago, about six weeks ago. He talks about his priorities. Let me read one.

This statement was made by the Minister of Health. "First, I believe that if we are to develop the healthier society that we all desire, we must take steps to ensure that the promotion of health and the prevention of disease are concepts well developed in the mind of the Ontario public." That is what we are talking about here. We are talking about the promotion of health. We are not talking about the treatment of disease.

What does the minister mean when he talks about health promotion? Let me go on. He says, "I have identified five key areas: improved physical fitness," something that midwives encourage; "smoking cessation," also encouraged by midwives; "alcohol moderation," further encouraged by midwives; "good nutrition,"

further encouraged by midwives; "finally, and most important of all, increased awareness about personal responsibility for health."

The direction of the Minister of Health of this government is not the responsibility of doctors, nurses or someone else, but personal responsibility. That is the direction of this proposal. How can the minister object to it?

5:20 p.m.

I would also point out that the Minister of Health and this government have clearly gone on record as indicating that the cost of health in this province is getting out of line and that we have to find ways to rein it in.

We are talking clearly here in support of this legislation or another piece of legislation that the government is quite free to bring in and that I would be prepared to support as long as the main principle is still there. We are talking here of alternatives to the present medical model. We are talking about lower costs. Home births and birthing clinics would be less costly than the present model and they would be just as safe for a healthy person.

The key here is the personal option of the woman. It is no accident that down through history women have usually assisted other women during the birthing process. There is a good reason for that. In most cases a woman feels more comfortable with another woman because she knows the other woman better understands how she feels, what she is going through and what her concerns and fears are. They may be unnecessary fears, but they are nevertheless there. That is no accident of history. That is a simple human psychological reaction of one woman understanding better another woman.

If women in Ontario want it, why should we oppose it? We are talking here about uncomplicated pregnancies and about women who are healthy, not women who are unwell. I fully realize there are some concerns about those pregnancies that are complicated, where there are potential problems: for example, a breech birth, the possibility of a caesarean operation, the possibility of the cord being around the baby's neck during the birthing process. I know there can be problems. My own wife has had problems in delivering some of our children. I am well aware of them.

Let us keep a couple of things in mind. First, we are not talking about a midwife handling the whole situation once a complication is recognized. The midwives themselves clearly say they want medical backup if it proves to be necessary. There is no situation I am aware of where a

midwife would attempt to deal with such a complicated situation.

Second, let us keep in mind the training process we are talking about. In England, midwives have a three-year training period. In Ireland, they have a two-year training period. In Ontario, doctors have a four-year training period, but that four years covers the whole gamut of possible medical necessities.

We are talking of a group of people who are prepared to train themselves over two or three years solely in one area. These people will become experts. They will be authorities. They will be able to recognize when there is a problem, and they will be quite prepared to refer that problem to a medical authority who is more competent than they are when that becomes necessary.

For these reasons, I support the legislation.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I also strongly support this bill, for three main reasons. First, as my colleague the member for Windsor-Riverside has pointed out, it is legislation essential to bring this province into the 20th century. We are away behind most other western nations in this and we are rapidly approaching the 21st century. As he also pointed out, the infant mortality rate in Canada is 9.6 per 1,000 and in Sweden, where every pregnant woman is under the care of a midwife, it is 7.0. Surely that is evidence of the benefits of midwifery.

Second, there would be very great benefits to the health of the people of Ontario from having this additional option in health care delivery. It would provide a service where there could be continuity of care from conception to the post-partum stage. That could have very great consequences in the prevention of problems of birth defects and even in saving lives. It could reduce infant and maternal mortality and could greatly cut the costs of providing services through the Ontario health insurance plan both for births and for the complications following births or the illnesses that may result from birth defects. So the second reason is to add to the diversity of health care options in Ontario.

The third reason is that this is a feminist issue. People who oppose the licensing of midwives are denying them, whether they are men or women, the right to practise their profession. It is discrimination against a group that is largely women. Under our Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the discrimination section of which will come into effect next March 31, this would be considered discrimination. Why wait for the province to have a discrimination case against it

next March? Why not make midwifery legal right now?

It also is discrimination against women generally by denying them the right to choose alternative types of birthing care. Since the statistics show there is no particular edge for one method of birthing over another as far as safety goes, there is no reason this option should not be legalized. In fact, there have been studies that show births in the home with midwives are safer than births in hospitals, while there have been no studies done that show births in hospitals are safer than births in the home; so there is no evidence to say that midwives and their services are a less safe method of providing birth care.

What we are debating in this House is the principle of legalizing midwifery and not whether we should wait for the long-delayed report from the health professions review committee on the subject. It seems to me that all members can give that committee guidance today on whether they favour the principle instead of sitting on their hands or blocking the bill until that report comes out, because that is really a cop-out on stating whether or not one is in favour of the principle.

One important reason for all members to support this bill today is the fact that the eyes of the world are on us. There is an international midwifery conference meeting in Toronto right now, and many of those attending here in the galleries are here to see whether this province is ready to get into the 20th century or whether its government is some sort of archaic hangover from the Dark Ages.

5:30 p.m.

Midwifery is a very ancient profession. In Canada, the natives and the Inuit have used midwives in their birthing practices from time immemorial, and in most cases they found the methods were safe, efficient and gave the kind of support women needed. In northern Canada and in northern Ontario, nurse midwives are allowed to practise legally, provided they cannot get the pregnant woman to the hospital in time or there is some reason the birth should be held in the community of the person, such as the distance being too great.

Some people have asked, "Why should the northern Ontario women have this advantage when it is denied to southern Ontario women?" It has been found to be a great benefit to many women who want this kind of support, counselling and guidance from conception to the post-partum stage. They rarely get this kind of continuity of service from modern hospital treatment in southern Ontario.

It has been proved that midwifery and births through midwives are as safe as other births. So why does the government appear not to be in support of it? Why have we waited so long for its legalization? I think there are only two reasons.

One is the opposition of the medical profession, which has a stereotyped view that women's role in the healing arts is one of subservience to doctors. Michele Landsberg, in a column in the *Toronto Star* a year ago, pointed out that Dr. Michael Dixon, the head of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, said in a radio interview, when he was asked about the college's opposition to midwifery, "The nurses want to carve out a niche for themselves here; but of course the doctors must retain control."

The other reason the government appears to be opposing this bill is that it is afraid any broadening of our health care system will add to the cost of the Ontario health insurance plan. But, as my colleague has pointed out, it would reduce the cost of OHIP. There would be a strong likelihood that there would be fewer birth defects, fewer follow-up costs on births and fewer fees paid to high-priced obstetricians.

As a matter of fact, there is no evidence that the government is concerned about the cost to OHIP when it grants large fee increases to the doctors. Yet when it comes to broadening the options for good health care for the women of this province, the government is not only sexist but also discriminates against all the women of this province who should have that opportunity.

I urge members, particularly the members opposite, to forget about blocking this bill, if they had any plans to do that, and to come out and tell us whether they are in favour of the principle.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, maybe I should allow the member for Renfrew South to make a comment since, as has been pointed out, he is the father of 14 children. However—

Mr. Foulds: He is the father, though.

Mr. Mitchell: Pardon?

Mr. Foulds: Keep going. The member is on a roll.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Mitchell: However, as the father of five children and one of a family of six children, I suspect I have a reasonable idea of some of the concerns that should be expressed with regard to this bill. I must support the comment made by the member for Brantford, who said that if this had been a resolution, it probably would have gone through here with a great deal of support.

I think the comments made by the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) are inaccurate. The health professions legislation review that is taking place is the first major review of all health professions since 1974. I would like to suggest as well to the member for Beaches-Woodbine that although we may—

Mr. McClellan: The ministry did not do anything about the last one.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Mitchell: There are a great many questions that, if this bill were to go through immediately, would be unanswered. One of them has been unanswered by the coalition. I stand to be corrected, but my understanding is that the midwives' coalition currently proposes a three-year program in midwifery, although it does not know where the best place is for that course to be provided. There seems to be some argument and concern that it should not be in the university system and that it should be in the college system. There is some confusion even there.

To reiterate the comments made by the member for Brantford, the coalition has submitted two very articulate and well-presented briefs. However, there are still some concerns that have to be expressed regarding the issue of midwifery raised by the member for Windsor-Riverside.

Midwifery is an issue that the Ministry of Health believes merits our serious attention and consideration. However, we also believe any discussion of the introduction and regulation of midwifery should focus on two specific areas: first, the optimum safety of mother and child; second, the impact midwifery would have on the existing health care system.

All my children were born in the hospital because my wife and I chose to have our children born in the hospital. I am one of a family of six originally, four of whom are alive, who ran into problems when we were all born at home. I could express my personal concerns, but what I am trying to point out today is that if we are going to amend legislation, we want it to be done in concert with the full, total review of the health professions.

Last year the Ministry of Health initiated the process of the health professions legislation review. As I stated earlier, that is the first comprehensive review since 1974. The ministry determined that an independent format was needed if the review were to be viewed as impartial and objective. Consequently, Toronto lawyer Alan M. Schwartz was appointed to chair the review. Mr. Schwartz is assisted by James D.

Fisher, Morey M. Ewing and Daphne Wagner of Canada Consulting Group.

One of the mandates of the review team is to examine the issues relating to the scope of practice among the various health care professions and to assist the ministry in clarifying and determining these roles in the delivery of health care in Ontario. We have chosen to revise legislation for all professions at the same time, rather than individually. In this way, relationships between adjacent professions can be studied. Recommendations can then be made as to how we can best co-ordinate and integrate the various professional roles, while at the same time maintaining the high standard of care that the people of Ontario have come to expect.

Midwifery is an area that typifies the complex, interprofessional relationships that exist in our health care system. Were midwifery to be introduced and regulated, it would be necessary to define the role of the midwife with respect to the existing professionals now providing prenatal care, labour and birth assistance and newborn care.

As well, other issues would have to be addressed, such as the establishment of a recognized training program, agreement on entry-to-practice standards and, finally, amending other legislation, as I mentioned earlier. The health professions legislation review process provides a forum for discussion of these issues.

As I mentioned earlier as well, the midwives' coalition has already submitted two articulate briefs. The member for Brantford has mentioned that other groups, such as the Ontario Medical Association, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, the College of Nurses of Ontario and others, have addressed this issue of midwifery in their submissions.

5:40 p.m.

Our intention is to defer any decision on the issue of midwifery until we have received the recommendations of the review team based on those submissions. We are therefore neither rejecting nor supporting the possibility of introducing and regulating midwifery. Rather, we will await the recommendations of the review in order that we might be better informed to make a rational, proper decision on this matter.

The Acting Speaker: The member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) has a minute to use.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I believe I have 10 minutes and I am going to defer five of my 10 to the member.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I do appreciate that. I appreciate the opportunity to say these few

words. I may not even use the five minutes. I am going to speak to a principle, as have many people in this debate. I operate on the principle that all citizens in Ontario have the right of access to proper health care if they need it and want it.

I am not suggesting for a moment that midwifery may not be a proper form of health care, but I see shortcomings in the system. Until such time as doctors, nurses, medical personnel, technicians and people recognized within the system now are available to all the people in Ontario, I could not, in principle, go to another level of health care or any form of service outside the existing system.

It has been suggested that pregnancy is not a disease. I would submit, however, that in the system as we know it now it certainly could be described as a condition best accommodated by the more thorough training of our doctors. I think the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) pointed out that people in medical school are there for four years of training and an internship of one or two years or whatever afterwards. They may go into general practice and get very involved with pregnancy situations, but not all of them take their post-graduate studies in obstetrics.

The system as it exists could well direct its attention to better training doctors, and nurses for that matter, and other people involved in the delivery system as we know it right now.

Beyond that, it concerns me that in a geographic sense there is inequality in the delivery system. We all know that communities such as those in southwestern Ontario have many hospitals and doctors; in many instances, we are much better off than people in remote communities in northern Ontario, for example. We all know examples of the use of midwifery in some way, shape or form in the remote communities.

I am not disputing that. However, the principle I enunciated at the beginning makes me want to speak out against this bill at this time.

I would encourage those involved and those in the gallery to direct their energies in response to the report on the Health Disciplines Act which has been referred to by the member for Brantford. The people concerned with the midwifery proposition should react to that report when it comes out with its recommendations.

At this time, however, I must say the system we have now must be improved before we can consider midwifery.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the participation of other members of the Legislature in this debate. I am somewhat surprised, though.

All of us in this Legislature know that in southern Ontario midwives are not allowed to use their skills in delivering babies. For some reason, though, all of a sudden in northern Ontario it becomes very safe and acceptable.

There is something very wrong with the kind of process in which we say, "It is not safe in southern Ontario, but it is safe in northern Ontario." The reality is that doctors do not want to go to northern Ontario and that is why midwifery is safe in northern Ontario.

We have heard the Conservative excuse that we have to wait for the health professions legislation review committee to report. That is an excuse. This is a vote on a bill in principle. It operates in exactly the same way as does a resolution. I do not expect this bill will become legislation, but we could give a message to the Minister of Health and the health professions review committee that we believe our narrow, institutional-based and doctor-based system is wrong for Ontario. It is outdated, it is too expensive and it is time to change that system now.

I heard from the member for Brantford that we have to look at the social work participation in the delivery of children and in services for pregnant women. The reality is there is none of that now available with doctors and obstetricians, and midwives are trained to provide that emotional support. If he believes the emotional support is as important as I do, then he should be supporting this bill on second reading.

We do not expect the Ontario Medical Association to support this bill. Do the members think doctors want to lose control? Do the members think any profession that controls health care as this profession does will want to lose one bit of control? It takes leadership and new direction and the only way that can happen is through this Legislature and the government of the day. We have to look at these alternatives because women and all people in Ontario have a right to look at and use alternatives. This government is denying those alternatives.

All one has to do is look at the Peterborough situation a year ago, where one doctor was trying to put in place a bonding program for women who had just delivered their children. That doctor almost lost her rights at the hospital. What was the response of the Health minister of the day in the social development committee during estimates last year? He said he personally supported the bonding program, but he had to defer to the professionals, the doctors in the Ministry of Health. Once again, common sense was over-

ruled by a profession that is not innovative, not looking to the demands, needs and rights of patients and people in Ontario who should be able to choose. That is all we are saying.

This government is afraid to go in any new directions in health care. The growth of community health clinics is almost nil. The birthing centre has been rejected out of hand, partly because of the Minister of Health and partly because of the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), because she is a doctor. Any option that will save money and provide patients and individuals with alternatives is rejected by this government because its members are married to the medical model. They are married to the institutions. They are supported by the doctors.

In the end, that system will crumble around us. As the system with doctors and institutions gets more and more costly, we are going to have the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) and the Minister of Health come before us saying: "We have to introduce new user fees to generate more money. We have to go to the private sector, as we have already been doing, to get capital."

All of this will be justified to the taxpayers and voters on the basis that it is too costly. It does not have to be too costly. There are alternatives to the present system. If this government does not have the guts to initiate those new alternatives, it will be to blame for the crumbling of medicare. One day, it or another government will have to pick up the pieces.

5:50 p.m.

RIGHT TO FARM ACT

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on Bill 87:

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Birch, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Eves, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Harris, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kennedy, Lane, MacQuarrie, Mitchell, Pollock, Ramsay, Rotenberg, Runciman, Sheppard, Shymko, Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Williams, Yakabuski—34.

HEALTH DISCIPLINES AMENDMENT ACT

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on Bill 48:

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Birch, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Gillies, Gregory, Johnson, J. M., Kennedy, Lane, MacQuarrie, McMurtry, McNeil, Mitchell, Norton, Pollock, Ramsay, Runciman, Sheppard, Taylor, G. W., Taylor, J. A., Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams—30.

Mr. Cooke: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I would like to point out those people over there have 71 members. They can defeat any bill we want to put forward; instead they want to destroy private members' hour.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member knows that is not a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Wells: It is not even a good point. Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order. I would ask all honourable members to control their interjections and allow the government House leader to make a statement.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the procedure that has just been followed is a legitimate one in the standing orders of the House, put in when the chairman of the standing committee on procedural affairs was the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh). The member for Oshawa included this in the standing orders at the time.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I do not know why the government House leader is trying to slander my name, but I would point out that even in those situations the government was on that side of the House.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Lest I be misunderstood, I am not trying to slander my friend's name. I am just trying to remind people he was chairman of the committee that drafted these standing orders, and I have heard him say he is very proud of these standing orders.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the business for tonight is slightly different from what is in

Orders and Notices. We will deal with second reading and committee of the whole on Bill 91, followed by Bill 58; we will not be dealing with Bill 102 tonight. After we conclude the bills we will proceed to the budget debate.

Tomorrow morning we will deal with the estimates of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman).

On Monday, November 5, we will finish any time remaining for the estimates of the Treasurer and then begin the estimates of the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch).

Next Tuesday, November 6, in the afternoon we will continue committee of the whole on Bill 101 and in the evening we will do committee of the whole on Bill 77, followed by second reading of Bill 82.

On Wednesday, November 7, the usual three committees may meet in the morning.

On Thursday, November 8, in the afternoon we will do private members' ballot items in the names of the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko) and the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley). In the evening, we will continue with second reading of Bill 82.

On Friday, November 9, we will continue the estimates of the Deputy Premier.

The Acting Speaker: I would like to remind all honourable members that at six o'clock in the main lobby of the Legislative Building there will be presentations to policemen and firemen for bravery and honour.

The House recessed at 5:58 p.m.

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Barlow, W. W., Acting Speaker (Cambridge PC)
Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)
Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment (Sarnia PC)
Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, November 1, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, November 1, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF SUDBURY AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Watson moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, second reading of Bill 91, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not mean to make a big thing of this, but I have a little procedural problem with a bill presented by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) being carried in the House by the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Energy and I would like you to explain to me just how we are proceeding on that basis.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Thank you. That is a legitimate point of order.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, if I may try to offer an explanation of why I have been asked to do this, it is because although the regional municipality acts all come under the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, the subject of this bill has to do with the hydro commissions for those regions and from a practical standpoint it is dealt with by the Ministry of Energy.

The dealings of those municipalities with the government concerning these commissions has been primarily with the Ministry of Energy and that is the reason I have been asked to do this, as with the other 10 bills before this dealing with hydro commissions in regional municipalities dealt with and spoken to in this Legislature by the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes).

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, very briefly and to the point of order, I do not want to make a big deal about this, but then again, I do not want this to become a practice, either.

I believe we are now out of order. I believe there is no question that this bill should be introduced by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I am happy to acquiesce, as we have on many occasions, to having that parliamentary assistant carry the bill. I have no objection to the honourable member giving the Minister of Energy's point of view, but I do think that to be in order a bill presented by one minister can be carried by his or her parliamentary

assistant, but I am not convinced it is proper procedure to whip that around to whoever is available.

The Acting Speaker: Do I have the unanimous support of the House for the member for Chatham-Kent (Mr. Watson) to present this on behalf of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing?

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, we do not mind giving consent to this, but I understand that the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) has been upstaged very eloquently here by the member for Chatham-Kent and I think the record should show that. It is quite obvious this is happening.

I wonder very much why this comes under the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing when the Ministry of Energy has designated the member for Chatham-Kent, as his parliamentary assistant, to carry the bill. It seems that since the Premier (Mr. Davis) has indicated his resignation in January, there are even more than half a dozen ways this government is—

The Acting Speaker: Would you please take your seat. I have listened to the points of order. Do I have the unanimous consent of the House to proceed with the member from Chatham-Kent?

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would like to ask the person who made this point of order where in the standing orders it indicates that the minister whose name is on the bill or his parliamentary assistant has to carry the bill. There is nothing in the standing orders to prevent the minister from designating any member in his caucus or on this side of the House to carry a bill and there is nothing that would prevent that member carrying the bill.

I would submit to you with respect, Mr. Speaker, that there is no need for consent. The bill is here. The member for Chatham-Kent is carrying the bill in the absence of the minister. He has made the motion, he is the speaker you have recognized and nothing is out of order. I suggest he proceed.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the member for Wilson Heights and all honourable members. Do we have unanimous consent to proceed?

Mr. Epp: On that same point of order, Mr. Speaker.

The Acting Speaker: I thought we had handled the point of order and we could proceed with the evening's business.

Mr. Epp: He got up on a point of order.

The Acting Speaker: I do not really recognize the honourable member as having had a point of order, so do not continue that one. I accepted the first point of order, but I have not had any since.

Mr. Breough: Mr. Speaker, as I tried to point out, I did not want to make a big deal out of it, but I did hear you put to the House that you needed to have unanimous consent to continue in the manner that is being proposed.

Five minutes ago, quite frankly, I was prepared to give unanimous consent. The member for Wilson Heights once again has intervened to convince me that this would not be a proper thing to do and you do not have unanimous consent.

Mr. Rotenberg: You do not need it.

Mr. Breough: You are out of order, too.

Hon. Mr. Eaton, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, moved second reading of Bill 91, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, has the—

The Acting Speaker: We are going to have someone speak to the bill, starting with the government side.

Mr. Epp: Oh, you are? Okay.

8:10 p.m.

Mr. Edighoffer: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, I believe the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing said there was nothing that would not allow another parliamentary assistant or a government member to move second reading. Standing order 55 says: "A reply is allowed to the minister or parliamentary assistant who has moved second or third reading of a bill."

The Acting Speaker: That was the reason I asked the government whip, because we did not have the unanimous consent. I think that was a valid point of order.

Mr. Edighoffer: Is that minister able to reply?

The Acting Speaker: Now we are having—

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, with due respect to this point of order, I want to draw to your respectful attention the fact that my colleague the member for Perth (Mr. Edighoffer), a former Deputy Speaker of this House, a person who is held in high esteem by every member of this House, has drawn to your attention a very

important point of order, something that is in our standing orders.

We are prepared to give unanimous consent on this matter, but I think you should recognize that we follow the orders of this Legislature. He has drawn that to your attention. I think it is incumbent on you as the unabashed, unbiased arbitrator of the two sides of this House to follow the orders as set out by this House.

The Acting Speaker: The honourable member is waxing eloquent. We will now proceed with the debate. All points of order have been met.

Mr. Epp: No, Mr. Speaker. I want to draw to your attention that you cannot because—

The Acting Speaker: Order. I ask all members to kindly resume their seats. I appreciate all the assistance the Speaker is receiving. I would like us now to continue with the bill. We recognize the member for Chatham-Kent.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have the opportunity to speak on this bill. I did not realize it was going to be so difficult to get on. It happens to be about 11th in a series of bills that have been presented over the past few years concerning regional commissions.

This bill establishes municipal hydro commissions in the area municipalities of Nickel Centre and Capreol. The service areas established are the boundaries serviced at present by the existing commissions. Discussions have been held with the municipal councillors and the commissions and they are in agreement with these boundaries.

Provision is made in the legislation for the expansion of the service area at a later date to include the entire municipality. Provision is made in the bill to give the councils of the municipality the option of appointing hydro commissions or limiting the electorate for the elections of the commission to those served by the commission.

I am sorry the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) is not here because I think one of his special interests is in this particular bill and I would like him to note it is there.

If a municipality expands the service area at a later date, a provision is made for the purchase of assets from Ontario Hydro and for the transfer of employees to the local utility with protection of salaries and benefits.

In addition to the bill, when we come to committee stage I will be introducing a couple of amendments, one of a technical nature and another that has arisen since the bill was printed. It will allow Inco to sell its assets to certain municipalities. We thought we would include

that by amendment at this time and it will clarify that, so it does not have to be amended later.

I think there is a fair amount of agreement on this bill with the municipalities concerned and I hope it will go forward.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I must respectfully say I agreed with my colleague's interpretation of the standing orders. In fact, I would have thought the member for London-Kent, as a member of the standing committee on procedural affairs, would have thought he would be able to interpret that himself. It says on page—

Mr. Watson: Where?

Mr. Epp: What did I say?

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I happen to come from the riding of Chatham-Kent.

Mr. Epp: Chatham-Kent. My apologies; he does come from Chatham. He is otherwise known as the member from Darcyville.

Quoting from standing order 55, "A reply is allowed to the minister or parliamentary assistant who has moved second or third reading of a bill." That is with respect to that particular ministry. Irrespective of that, we will be supporting this bill. We are in support of reduced rates which, I presume, will be a result of these local hydro commissions being formed.

I was on the committee that helped to organize the various hydro commissions in the regions in my area, and there are three of them. I know that in my own region of Waterloo the rural consumers, as a result of the reorganization, were able to organize themselves in a better manner than Ontario Hydro had organized them and they were able to get lesser rates.

In projecting that same kind of economy at the local standpoint from Waterloo to the province and from there to the area of Sudbury, I can only assume those local municipalities will pay lesser rates than they have under Ontario Hydro.

I am sure his aides who are under the gallery smiling from ear to ear will send him a note to say that is not true. I want him to be able to say it is not true that Ontario Hydro rates are much less than I expect them to be and that these people will have to pay higher rates than they pay under Ontario Hydro.

If he could tell me that, the people of Capreol and the people of Nickel Centre would be most pleased with that kind of statement, finding out that they are going to pay higher rates than they are currently paying. I can only assume it is really going to be lower.

The other thing is they are going to have more autonomy. The local commissions being formed are going to be able to organize themselves. The mayor is going to be on the local commission. Some other people from the local municipality are going to be appointed initially. After next November 30, they are either going to be elected or they are going to be appointed. Either way, there is going to be more local autonomy as far as the hydro commissions are concerned. We can support it on that basis also.

We also want to raise a concern of centres such as Nickel Centre, Onaping Falls and Walden. They have some private hydroelectric sources, some other suppliers of their hydro needs.

The parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Energy is somewhat misplaced in this context today speaking for a bill that is being sponsored by the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, who is regularly absent from this Legislature when bills come up. I wonder whether he could address this matter and expand at some length on where the private sources of hydro are in the various municipalities and what percentage of the total amount is supplied.

I notice people are taking copious notes on the things I am saying so he can respond at some length.

Can he tell us what savings they incur in these various areas by having private and not public hydro rates?

I only wish that my colleague the member for Halton-Burlington (Mr. Reed) was here to speak on this matter. There is no one in this Legislature, including the Minister of Energy, who is more attuned to the hydro power of this province or is more knowledgeable with respect to the way Hydro is being run in this province.

8:20 p.m.

We will be supporting the bill, but we have some concern with respect to whether the rates the people are going to pay will go up or down. The minister must not tell us it is going to be directly dependent on the kinds of decisions the local commission makes, because we know he has projections and we want to hear those projections.

We also want to hear the percentages of hydro supplied by those various private sources, the number of private sources that are there for hydro power and the projection as to whether Ontario Hydro plans to buy out those various private sources or to aid and abet them in producing additional hydro for the province and for their particular areas.

Last but not least, we want to hear the kind of projections the minister has for the centres of Onaping Falls, Rayside, Balfour, Valley East and Walden, particularly with respect to the first two I mentioned. We want to know when he expects hydro commissions to be formed in those areas.

Mr. Breough: Mr. Speaker, we will support the bill essentially because it is in front of us tonight at the request of the local municipalities. Wherever we can, we like to accommodate the wishes of the local elected officials.

I want to make a couple of comments on second reading that I think are worth noting. I recall watching this kind of structure being set up in other areas of Ontario, principally in my own. I think we have to put on the record that right now this looks like a piece of housekeeping business. It looks like a response on the part of the government to the requests of local municipalities to put what might be called some common sense in place, along the lines of reports that were tabled some years ago.

In doing research for this bill, I came across a committee set up in 1973 in the days when the riding of Chatham-Kent had a member and everybody knew who the member was. The member commanded a great deal of respect. There was no fumbling around with who was the member for Chatham-Kent. He sat right in the front row, an immense blue Tory right to the hilt. There was no question about whether that constituency had representation. The famous Darcy McKeough, my all-time favourite Tory, commissioned this report on restructuring public utilities.

Mr. Epp: He started right over there. When he came here, he started over there, on the side of the member for Oshawa.

Mr. Ruston: He sat in the rump.

Mr. Breough: Yes, I recall; I recall when there was a Tory rump.

More than a decade ago, the committee on restructuring public utilities laid out the reasons there ought to be public utilities commissions of this nature set in place and why there should be restructuring.

I also recall the famous Mr. McKeough talking about the economies of scale on many occasions. That is the little warning note I want to put in here. I have heard this argument many times before. I recognize this restructuring of public utilities is a good thing. In many respects, it is. From an organizational point of view, in terms of the provision of service and equalizing the kind of service available to people in a given

geographic area, I do not think there is any question in my mind that this legislation will work.

However, we also want to be up front and drop the other shoe: it is going to cost more money. Darcy used to call this the "economies of scale." When he first started talking to me about this kind of stuff, I foolishly thought that meant one would somehow save money. That is not true. "Economies of scale" really means it is going to get bigger in servicing a bigger area; there will be bureaucracies started.

There is no question that in the case of this piece of legislation we are talking about a little bureaucracy; but little bureaucracies do have a tendency to grow up and become big bureaucracies. I do not have any question in my mind that from today's point of view, in the area that will be served by this legislation, it is viewed in one way alone: this is a good, sensible, commonsense thing to do.

In my mind there is also no question that a year or two from now, or maybe it will be even three years from now, people will be saying: "How come this thing is costing so much money? How come all the people in the new utility are off to conventions somewhere? How come they want to charge me more money to do a hookup?" All those questions will arise.

For the record, it would be wise for us to drop the other shoe this evening. It is a good thing from an organizational point of view; there is no question about it. It is a good thing for this government to respond in a positive way to requests from those municipalities to do this kind of restructuring; I do not have any qualms about saying that. But I also wish the government would be up front and say to those people, "Folks, sooner or later, this is going to cost you more money."

I rarely, if ever, hear this government tell people there is good and bad to this kind of restructuring. It may provide better service. It will provide a better organizational technique to provide those services. It may at some point in time offer people within this geographic area a better set of services. But it would be nice if this government told them up front and honestly that all this restructuring inevitably means they will get better service but that they are going to pay for it through increased rates.

When I see this kind of proposed restructuring, I become concerned that the government is not giving the people the whole story; they give them half or three quarters of it. I believe there is an obligation for the government to say tonight, and

when it does this restructuring, that it hopes there will be better service—that is not always the case, but that is the intent; there is the potential for better service—and a better organization in place but that does not come cheaply and the consumer will have to pay for the increases. In Ontario, to be fair about it, the only one who ever pays is the consumer.

We will support the bill. I do not have any real problems with the amendments presented to me about 10 minutes ago, but I do want to put one small objection on the record.

This bill has been in the hot little hands of some parliamentary assistant for a while. I am at a loss to explain why amendments to a piece of legislation like this, which has been on Orders and Notices for some time now and which has been requested by those municipalities for some time, are presented on the same evening the bill is being debated.

The government of Ontario has known what it wanted to do with this local restructuring for six or eight months, or even longer, if my information is correct. I am at a loss to explain why amendments are presented on the same evening the bill is being debated. I fail to see why that is necessary.

Is the government so disorganized that it honestly does not know what it wants in a piece of legislation until the very evening we are going to have a debate on second reading? If that is the way this government is organized, it should not restructure anybody else's life until it restructures its own and gets its own act in order.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, my colleague the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) has already indicated we will support the bill, which is one of a series of bills establishing hydro commissions more or less roughly along the boundaries established by the old regionalization bills passed by this House many years ago.

In many respects, they are very slow in coming forward, probably because they have been waiting for the approval of the local communities concerned. It is also helpful to have the views of the local member since sometimes the boundaries of these new commissions tend to work a degree of hardship on the actual community and no one is better able to interpret the geography and the views of the area and what is best for the local community than the locally elected member.

My own feeling is that the regionalization approach imposed on these communities some years ago was a mistake in the first instance and that in many respects the imposition of other

services on regional boundaries simply compounds that error.

On the other hand, I have listened to what my colleague the member for Waterloo North has said, and I agree with him because it is cheaper to buy one's electricity from a local commission than directly from Ontario Hydro. This counts for a lot in these days when Hydro rates are rising at twice the rate of inflation at least.

I do not intend to go over all the reasons why Hydro mismanagement under the direction of this government has resulted in these rapidly escalating costs, but I am certainly in favour of anything we can do to alleviate these costs at the local level.

8:30 p.m.

The boundaries do not mean much to me, although I have been in most of the communities named here. I can well remember having a triumphal Liberal parade in Capreol. It was not successful in that instance, but it was certainly triumphal as far as I was concerned, in that we got from one end of the parade to the other without serious personal damage.

In this instance, I do believe the upshot will be better local control and lower rates for the long-suffering consumers of electricity who have been subjected to these huge increases in rates which, as I have indicated, have far exceeded the rate of inflation. Certainly they do this year, when the rate imposed will be double the rate of inflation.

There is another bill dealing with the municipalities in Haldimand-Norfolk that is not on the list for consideration tonight. It is very similar to this one, and we hope the representative of the minister will see his way clear to asking for the consent of the House so it can be discussed and approved in the same way.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I want to add a few comments on Bill 91, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act, particularly in relation to the establishment of new hydro commissions for the municipalities of Capreol and Nickel Centre. My comments will be based on what has happened in the restructuring of hydro utilities within the Niagara region.

One of the difficulties we found when the bill was passed a few years ago was the additional cost of purchasing the physical plant and equipment from Ontario Hydro. I am slightly at a loss as to why the minister would introduce a bill at this time when we have the government telling us about the restraint program and keeping everything within five per cent. As the previous speaker mentioned, Ontario Hydro's rate in-

creases in the past couple of years have been well over the five per cent restraint guideline.

Restructuring means somebody will have to pick up the tab and buy all the rolling stock from Ontario Hydro that is in the municipality now. The minister says no, but surely somebody is going to take it over; eventually someone will. Is Ontario Hydro going to continue servicing that area? It would be interesting if the parliamentary assistant would indicate later what is going to take place.

Niagara region had to purchase that rolling stock from Ontario Hydro. In many cases, the local utilities had to increase hydro rates considerably to carry the cost of purchasing that stock. With the high interest rates today, the bill for the restructuring of the Niagara Peninsula should not have been introduced until the interest rates had come down considerably. The government and the minister responsible have not taken into consideration that they have to buy the rolling stock from Ontario Hydro when forming these new commissions. Eventually that will take place.

The situation now facing Fort Erie is this. By reason of the Niagara bill and being serviced by Canadian Niagara Power, which is an American utility, after some 50 years the agreement has to be renewed next year. The difficulty that municipality is facing is that the agreement says either party can terminate the agreement upon 12 months' notice. I do not have to relate the difficulties that are taking place on the American side with hydro utilities. If one looks at the sweet rental package that Canadian Niagara has had for the past 50 or 100 years, one sees it is getting the hydro from Ontario Hydro for almost nothing and selling it to Fort Erie. They have to go in for restructuring in that municipality, which will mean an amendment to the bill.

One can never tell what will happen when dealing with an offshore company, but it could cost Fort Erie a considerable hike in hydro rates alone, because someone will have to purchase that plant and all the facilities. With the high interest rates today, I would not want to touch it with a 10-foot pole. I suggest to the parliamentary assistant, who is responsible for the bill tonight, that there should be some numbers and figures as to what the cost is going to be. There should be a forecast of the projected cost of hydro in the next year, once the restructuring takes place in that area with them forming their own hydroelectric commission.

The member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) is quite correct when he says he is concerned about

the costs. However, he stands up and says, "I am going to support the bill." I do not know whether I should support it. If it were a good piece of legislation, the member who represents that area would be here thumping tonight and saying it was a good piece of legislation, but I do not see him here. I do not know what the reason is, but perhaps he is not happy with the legislation.

When the government brings in these restructuring bills, there should be a cost factor so the people who get the end product will know what it is going to cost. We are talking about a utility bill that is going to be introduced to take in parts of Haldimand-Norfolk, or it might be Nanticoke or one of the other municipalities in that area.

The government is asking the members to stand up and endorse a change in legislation that will incorporate a new hydroelectric commission, or it may be taken in with the regional commission. There has to be more information than what is in this bill. What is the projected cost of hydro to the consumers who will be under this local commission?

I think of Niagara, which my colleague the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) brought to my attention. When they restructured the utility bill in Niagara, they left out two townships. The reason they were left out—

Mr. Epp: They could not spell them.

Mr. Haggerty: They could not spell out the cost; that is what it was. The cost would have made it beyond their ability to pay for the hydro service. The townships I am referring to are Wainfleet and West Lincoln.

Mr. Bradley: They went through to save the government's scalp. Remember that?

Mr. Haggerty: My colleague says they went through to save the government's scalp. I am not sure of that. Those are two areas in the regional municipality that are still purchasing electricity from Ontario Hydro because if they had been put into the larger regional commission or a larger commission of one or two municipalities joined together, the cost involved would have been prohibitive; so they were left out of any local utility.

With Humberstone, which was taken in by the city of Port Colborne under regional government, it was purchased by the local utility in Port Colborne. They are feeling it now because they have to pay for all the rolling stock that Ontario Hydro owns.

At one time I was under Ontario Hydro. Sometimes I wish I still were. Now I am under the Canadian Niagara Power Co. and it is a little

cheaper, but with this new agreement coming up it is not going to be any cheaper.

There is something I find difficult to understand, and I raised the matter during consideration of the restructuring bill for the Niagara utilities. If there is a hydro rate increase in the town of Fort Erie, they have no right to appeal to the Ontario Energy Board, because they are served by the American company, but on the American side there is an appeal process.

The contract is coming up and will have to be signed in 1985. The rates might be doubled; I do not know. They had a fixed rate of six mills for 50 years. They must have made a bundle at that time at 50 mills because they got the energy for nothing in the first place.

There should be some cost figures so that the consumer knows what he is buying. There is nothing in here. If they had done their homework they would have that information before the Legislature today. I will bet those people up there know nothing about what is taking place down here. There is no input.

The government should bring in that information for the restructuring bill for the Haldimand-Norfolk area and for other areas. It is the government's responsibility to bring forward that information so we can make a reasonable decision as to which way we should go to vote in principle. Is it the right direction to go?

8:40 p.m.

The Acting Speaker: The parliamentary assistant of another ministry wishes to speak to this bill. I ask for the unanimous consent of the House that he have a second opportunity to speak to it.

Agreed to.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I think I have some answers to questions that were raised and I would like to go in the reverse of the order in which they were raised. I have the answer for the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty), and it relates to the same matter as that raised by the member for Waterloo North.

In this bill, there are no purchases from Ontario Hydro; there are no purchases of rolling stock. This simply brings into force a means of electing the commissioners for Capreol and Nickel Belt. These communities will operate on the same basis as they are now; they will operate on the same limits. They are not expanding.

I realize that in both these members' areas the groups have expanded. They have had to buy from Ontario Hydro. The commissions have been expanded. If there are any increases in rates, they may be from appointing a new

commissioner who sets higher rates for himself or something, but there is no purchase of any stock and there is no change in boundaries. It simply legitimizes the commissions that are now there, which have been frozen since the regional municipality was created. Therefore, this bill is necessary.

There has been some discussion, particularly by the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), at different stages concerning how to allow local councils another option on how they are to appoint their commissioners. We have accommodated that in this bill.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, on a point of clarification: The member for Chatham-Kent has indicated this legislation legitimizes those commissions. I do not think he wants to leave the inference that they are illegitimate now, and he may want to clarify that.

Mr. Watson: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I would like to withdraw that word. I do not want to leave any of those impressions. I want to say in clarification that this bill does not in any way imply that.

The amendment I will be bringing forward may involve a change in rates because, if the commission in the communities involved takes over and does form a commission, it will be up to it to set the rates.

In response to the member for Oshawa, I apologize for the fact the amendment to this bill is coming late, but we are really ahead of the times. If the member would read the amendment, it is a little unclear when it is going to happen because it has not happened yet.

Inco has offered to sell it. This has developed since the bill was originally printed and therefore we think it is a good idea to have this in the bill at the present time so that if and when those communities want to form a commission—and there is every likelihood that they will—they will have the authority to do it. Rather than drag something on for a long time, this amendment is going to permit them to take over that generating capacity and distribution system when and if they want to do so rather than be behind on it.

I realize we could have had the amendment to the members a day or so ago, but it is a relatively recent development that we think fits into this. There are other areas of the province in which this is likely to happen and it is likely to necessitate a private bill by the community involved. By putting this in the bill at this time in the form we are proposing, we will cover it when the time comes.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

MUNICIPAL PAYMENTS IN LIEU OF TAXES STATUTE LAW AMENDMENT ACT

Mr. Rotenberg moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, second reading of Bill 58, An Act to amend certain Acts related to Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Municipalities.

Mr. Epp: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I am not sure how long this bill will take, but in respect to the people who are here, there was another bill on the Haldimand-Norfolk area which also had to do with restructuring on which we wanted to have unanimous consent. I am wondering whether you wanted to deal with that bill first and then go to Bill 58.

The Acting Speaker: We will follow the orders that have been set.

Mr. Epp: Fair enough.

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, this bill is here at the request of a number of municipalities that have provincial parks within their boundaries.

The proposal in this bill would change the basis for determining the income of those municipalities from a payment in lieu of municipal taxes on these provincial parks and also on agricultural research stations. The payments are now based on an acreage—or I guess now a hectare—basis, calculated using a fixed rate. It is proposed to change this to a payment based on the assessed value of the property and the municipal tax rate year by year. As the tax rate goes up in the municipality, the grant in lieu will also go up rather than being on a fixed rate.

There could be situations in which the assessed value and the mill rate might produce less than the present grant in lieu of taxes. There is a provision in this bill that protects every municipality so that no municipality will receive less under the new proposal than it was entitled to under the old formula in 1983. As I say, this is here at the request of a number of municipalities so that the grants in lieu will be greater. We have acceded to their request and I ask for second reading of this bill.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, at the outset I am pleased to indicate we will be supporting this bill. The bill deals with provincial grants to various municipalities that contain provincial parks and agricultural research stations. If it means that municipalities in the future will be getting at least the amount of grants from the province they are currently getting—I would hope they will be

getting an increase in those grants—then we have no real difficulty in supporting it.

The other important aspect is that the municipalities have been consulted by the province, although I am not sure to what extent. I know that currently there are grants in lieu of taxes for all kinds of matters. Although most municipalities do not get through grants an amount equivalent to what they could raise through taxes on a particular property, nevertheless it is a step forward from a few short years ago. At that time, the province did not recognize various municipalities still had to look after, be partly responsible for, provide services for, but at the same time not get any grants for a lot of property.

Until a few years ago, I know my own municipality did not get any grants in lieu of taxes for the universities. I think the current rate now is about \$25 per student. That may have increased; nevertheless, it is a substantial increase over what it was receiving a few years ago.

Mr. Nixon: You have two universities there.

Mr. Epp: We have two great universities of which we are proud.

We are in support of the principle. I am hopeful the assessed value principle is going to be an improvement over the current practice and is going to make it more uniform across the province. As I have indicated, we are in support of this.

8:50 p.m.

Based on the current evaluation the ministry has done with all its computers, I am wondering how much more money it will be paying out on the basis of its current practice over what it is instituting. I am sure that has been calculated and the province must at least have a fairly good estimate to present to this House. It would not be doing it if it is astronomical. The Treasury with its \$2.5-billion deficit every year would not be incurring great additional costs, even if those grants were going to municipalities.

They must have at least a reasonable estimate to present to the House. I am sure the parliamentary assistant, the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), who always has these figures at his fingertips and ready to rattle off very quickly, has those figures for us today. We will look forward to hearing the estimates he is prepared to present to the House.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, this is one of those occasions when we have been given a reasonable amount of notice and we have had the opportunity to do a little canvassing of the people

who will be directly affected. They seem reasonably satisfied that the bill will deal with them fairly and resolve a long-standing problem.

There has always been a certain awkwardness about this kind of provision, and this may be a somewhat more straightforward way to deal with it. Because the people who are more directly affected by it seem to think this is a reasonable way to proceed, we will be happy to support the bill on second reading.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I want to take a look at Bill 58, An Act to amend certain Acts related to Payments in Lieu of Taxes to Municipalities. I want to look at the explanatory notes, in particular section 3: "To amend the Niagara Parks Act, the St. Clair Parkway Commission Act and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission Act to provide for payments in lieu of taxes with respect to parks established under those acts. At present, such payments are made under the Provincial Parks Municipal Tax Assistance Act."

I see the minister's parliamentary assistant is trying to put forward a program here so some assistance is given to municipalities in taxes through a grant system that will probably supply additional taxes to a municipality. My main concern is with the Niagara Parks Commission. I recall some of the important things the commission does in the area, from Fort George at Niagara-on-the-Lake to the old fort at Fort Erie, the miles of park lands the commission looks after and maintains. For example, in the town of Fort Erie it maintains nine or 10 miles along the Niagara River.

The point I want to make to the parliamentary assistant is sometimes one may overtax, particularly the Niagara parks system, so it may not provide the services it is providing now. If Fort Erie had to maintain that riverfront itself as a park it would cost the town about \$400,000 a year. The Niagara Parks Commission does an excellent job of providing good care, good landscaping and everything else along that river. I suggest this may have some adverse affect upon the services that are now being funded and supplied by the commission.

It does an excellent job in that area. I think in particular of the city of Niagara Falls. If it had not been for the Niagara Parks Commission and the system there, we would not have the windfall from the tourists coming in and the spinoff to the motels and hotels and places they can visit.

Including the commission under this piece of legislation may have an adverse affect. It may have a good year and it may have a poor year. I

suggest extra taxes in this area are not warranted at this time for the benefits that derive to municipalities that share this great heritage of the Niagara parks system. I suggest to the parliamentary assistant he should take a second look at this, so we do not overtax a good system that is providing recreation and entertainment for people from all over the world.

These tourist dollars mean quite a bit to those communities in the spinoff in the areas where visitors look at the sites along the Niagara River. They have a good system there and I would not want to see anything that might jeopardize the position they have taken now. If the municipalities had to maintain that parkway, it would be a rather costly project and would mean an increase in local taxes to the residents in that area to maintain this beautiful parkway.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I want to raise an issue I have raised quite a few times in previous years. It concerns border municipalities or municipalities bordering on large metropolitan areas of another jurisdiction.

Because of the proximity of Detroit to Windsor and because the Americans do frequent our downtown areas as well as visit our various parks throughout not only Windsor but also the county of Essex, there are added costs for policing. Other municipalities would not have these additional police costs simply because they are not located, as Windsor is, close to a population of approximately five million within two hours' drive.

Has the parliamentary assistant's ministry taken into consideration municipalities such as Windsor and others throughout the province that are very close to large American urban areas? Has it considered the fact that being so close to them entices Americans to come over the border and taste our hospitality but also creates an added burden in the policing bill of these municipalities? Has he taken into consideration increasing grants to such municipalities for the reasons I have mentioned?

Mr. Rotenberg: Mr. Speaker, I thank the members for their support of this bill. I would like to deal briefly with the matters that were raised by the various honourable members.

In the absence of the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp), I will answer his question anyway. At the present time the grants in lieu are approximately \$600,000; under the proposed legislation this would rise to approximately \$1.1 million. In other words, almost double the amount of money would go into municipal coffers under the terms of this bill.

The member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) will notice that the Niagara Parks Act is not affected by this bill. As he says, there should not be an additional burden on that commission. The money for that, in effect, comes out of the commission, not out of the government. There is no change in the method of payments by the Niagara Parks Commission through the ministry for the grant in lieu of taxes to the various municipalities in the member's riding.

The only reason this is in the bill is that at the present time the method of payment of grants in lieu by the Niagara Parks Commission and two other commissions, the St. Lawrence Parks Commission and the St. Clair Parkway Commission, are in this bill and we feel that, because each of those commissions has its separate bill, the method of paying grants in lieu of taxes should be in the bill that is peculiar to that commission.

All this bill does is to transfer the Niagara Parks Commission method of paying its grant in lieu to its own bill so it is all in one place; there is no change in the actual dollars. I can assure the member for Erie this will not change the matter.

As far as the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman) is concerned, of course this bill deals only with grants in lieu for provincial parks; it has nothing to do with grants for police or other matters. I really cannot say to the member at this time that any special consideration is being given for extra grants to Windsor, Niagara Falls, Cornwall or any other border municipalities because of the influx of tourists. I would think the municipalities would be more than happy to have the tourist dollars; whether that is more or less than offset by the additional costs I do not really know.

But because the member has raised it, it is now in Hansard, and I will see that our ministry officials at least look into this matter. Whether anything will come of it I cannot say at this time.

9 p.m.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

Hon. Mr. Eaton: I understand we may have unanimous consent to proceed with Bill 89.

Agreed to.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALDIMAND-NORFOLK AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Eaton moved, on behalf of Hon. Mr. Bennett, second reading of Bill 89, An Act to

amend the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk Act.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak on Bill 89. The bill establishes municipal hydro commissions in the six area municipalities of this region.

The first thing the bill does is state that the commission of the municipality of Simcoe will serve the entire municipality and the others will serve only the existing service area.

In view of the comments made when we were discussing the other bill, I point out that Simcoe will be purchasing some assets from Ontario Hydro. Simcoe would like this to expand its area and have asked particularly for it. The others will simply be serving their now existing areas.

In Nanticoke, the existing commissions in the three former municipalities will be disbanded and the Nanticoke Hydro-Electric Commission established to administer the three existing service areas.

In Haldimand, the existing commissions in the three former municipalities are disbanded and a Haldimand Hydro-Electric Commission is established to administer the three existing service areas.

The bill also provides an option to council that, if at a later date a municipality expands the service area provision is made for the purchase of the assets from Ontario Hydro and the transfer of employees to the local utility with protection of salaries and benefits, as in the other bills.

Provision is made in the bill to give the councils of the municipalities the option of appointing hydro commissions or limiting the electorate for election of the commissions to those served by the commissions.

I will be asking that this bill go to committee of the whole House for a minor amendment so certain people who own businesses in the area are not disfranchised. It will be similar to the amendment asked for in the other bill.

With those few comments, I will be interested in other comments concerning Bill 89.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, we have been waiting some time for the bill to come forward. There are some concerns.

First, I would like to say that Simcoe has supported bringing in this legislation for at least two years. They have a new building and new facilities to deal with hydro services for the Simcoe area and they are prepared to take over the total town of Simcoe and look after hydro services for that area.

The town of Dunnville is in a similar position. It is satisfied with the bill. This will now give it

the opportunity of selecting the way it wants to elect the commission to represent the area of Dunnville.

The township of Norfolk and the township of Delhi are in a similar position. I believe there is some concern with the city of Nanticoke. They felt the service area could have been expanded, in particular in Port Dover and Jarvis.

Speaking about Port Dover first, it has requested that it service the sewer and water area now serviced by the city of Nanticoke. Perhaps it could have taken in the town of Jarvis and the new town site of Townsend and the one commission could have looked after both.

Regional government was brought in on April 1, 1974. The new town site was selected in 1978 or 1979. They began construction in 1980. If the government really wanted to bring the community together, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) could have permitted the area to expand to cover the services, providing hydro for Townsend and Jarvis. One commission could have done that.

I believe the minister or the parliamentary assistant has indicated that was not possible. Therefore, we will not stand in the way of having the hydro commissions properly elected and having their duties delegated.

They have been working under the commission that has existed for 10 years—since 1974—and I believe this has to be corrected.

I think the town of Haldimand has indicated through the mayor, Ms. E. Fuller, there were some concerns with the former town of Caledonia. It is a growing municipality. They are developing outside the original boundaries. It would have been useful if the government had accepted the wishes of the council and the commission to extend their service boundaries. It would have been an opportune time to do that. Again, the minister has refused to deal with it.

On October 18, a letter was addressed to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"Honourable Sir:

"Re: Bill 89:

"In reference to our conversation at the Heritage Luncheon, Simcoe Fair, Friday, October 5, the following is a brief history of events to date as promised.

"1. The former town of Caledonia was discussing boundary adjustments with Seneca and the united townships in the early 1970s. Due to the limited development lands available within its boundaries, these lands were identified in planning documents.

"2. In 1975, these lands were defined in Haldimand-Norfolk bylaw 49-75, approved by the Ontario Municipal Board, August 13, 1975, as an urban service area and an urban service charge was levied.

"3. The Haldimand-Norfolk regional official plan, passed by council in 1970 and approved by the Minister of Housing in 1980, identified the future population of Caledonia as 13,000, and the boundaries for growth were those outlined in an urban service bylaw.

"4. In 1979, amendment 3 to the Haldimand-Norfolk regional official plan, town of Haldimand district plan, was approved by Haldimand-Norfolk council and received Ministry of Housing approval in 1983. Schedule C1 of that document, enclosed, also identifies the same boundaries for growth during the term of the plan.

"Because the lands within the urban service area boundary have consistently been identified for growth of Caledonia for over 14 years and because the same area has been identified for development in legal documents approved by the Ontario Municipal Board and/or the Minister of Housing since 1975, we feel it is only logical the same boundaries should be used for servicing by the town of Haldimand-Caledonia Hydro Commission.

"Especially since in this region the local utilities are responsible for water and sewer billings, I must clarify that our original request was only to be allowed to include the urban service area in our public utilities commission service area. The proposal to move the ward boundaries was made in a letter to Philip Andrewes, MPP, in a letter of March 16, 1983, enclosed.

9:10 p.m.

"I cannot emphasize too strongly the need for a decision on the future of our hydro commission. It is impossible to make responsible decisions on equipment and staffing while we remain in limbo.

"The commissions have been frozen now for 10 years and time is taking its toll on the health and energy of some commissioners. We are anxious to put the new commissions in place so we can see their job completed.

"We believe our request is reasonable and look forward to your reply as well as the introduction of amending legislation as soon as possible."

It is signed by the mayor of the town of Haldimand, Edith Fuller.

I just want to put that on the record for the benefit of the parliamentary assistant, indicating there has been a request from the town of Haldimand to expand the urban areas. It seems only reasonable when we are providing a new commission and a new bill that affects the area and the future development and provision of hydro to those areas that those requests could have been carried forward.

I believe the minister indicated he was not in agreement with that. Thus we have no alternative but to make our position known as far as the town of Haldimand is concerned and put on the record that was its wish. In any future development hydro service is important. Water and sewer services together with the hydro billing seems to me would be more efficient and less costly to the people involved. I think the bottom line is we consider the economy, the eventual billing that has to be paid by the user and the efficient service to be provided to the area.

A similar argument to amalgamate billing facilities could be made as far as the city of Nanticoke and Port Dover, which has had considerable growth, are concerned. The same service and equipment could be provided by the commission. I think it makes sense.

That is the reason the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has been reluctant to bring this bill forward. He wanted to hold the municipalities as they are and not give them the opportunity to expand their area of service. Consequently the bill has been in limbo.

I want to thank the minister for bringing it forward. There is room in the legislation to expand these areas in the future and perhaps the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) could clarify that so we can assure the commission officials, the mayor of the city of Nanticoke and the mayor of the town of Haldimand, that it is possible to expand those boundaries in the near future if it is the wish of the municipality.

I hope the ministry is listening to the input from the grass roots, and I hope those wishes will be carried out. With those comments, I will be interested in the response of the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Energy.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, this is a bill that does have a little local controversy about it; however, we gather the consensus is that most of the local municipalities want the legislation and so we will be happy to support it.

Before I get into that, I want to deal with a couple of matters that are beginning to disturb me somewhat. In the House at the moment there is

no minister, neither the minister who has had his name printed on this bill nor the Minister of Energy. In fact, there is no real minister of the crown in attendance this evening. We are dealing with a bill that is not in Orders and Notices.

The Deputy Speaker: With all due respect to the honourable member, is that addressing the bill?

Mr. Breaugh: I am dealing with a point of order. If you want me to get sticky about it, I will make a point of order and point out that there is not a quorum in the chamber, let alone a minister of the crown who could carry it. If you would like to let the bells ring for a little while we could do that, or you can let me make these remarks and put them on the record and keep me happy. Would you like to have a quorum, sir? I sense you are unhappy with my diddling along in this matter, so I will bring it to your attention. I do not believe there is a quorum in here.

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

9:19 p.m.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, before I was so rudely interrupted, I was trying to express my reservations about proceeding with this bill now. The bill is not printed in Orders and Notices. I believe there is a good reason for printing bills there; it is to give some notice to those who might be interested in the proceedings of the Legislature in regard to a given piece of legislation.

This afternoon, I questioned the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg), the parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, as to why we would not be proceeding with the bill because we had dealt with the Sudbury bill just previously. He informed me that there was a little problem and that they might have to go to committee with it.

I was a little taken aback earlier this evening when I was asked to give unanimous consent to do this bill this evening. I did so because I was informed the local member wanted to proceed with it this evening.

I believe it is not a good precedent to set, to deal with a piece of legislation, about which it is obvious by the not so steady attendance across the way there, this government does not give a high priority. None the less, to those people who live in the riding of Haldimand-Norfolk, it is of some considerable importance. We do them a disservice when we proceed with a bill that is not previously announced, not printed on the Orders and Notices and when members have not been given ample notice.

I am prepared to make the exception this evening. I am in a particularly friendly and giving mood tonight, but the government is testing my patience sorely by doing that.

To complicate the matter further, it is my understanding that—

Interjections.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, let us get a little order in here before we proceed.

The Deputy Speaker: As the member for Waterloo North (Mr. Epp) is just returning to his seat, I would just take this opportunity to remind the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breagh), with all due respect, that in spite of his comments, the fact is that the House has given unanimous consent to proceed with the bill.

All honourable members have listened to the honourable member's thoughts in that direction, but the fact is that all the members have agreed to proceed with the bill; so I do not know that we should continue to make that debate.

Mr. Breagh: In response to that little lecture, I want to point out that I was in a very friendly mood earlier this evening, but subsequent events have changed my mind substantially. I say to the government, do not come looking to me for unanimous consent on this kind of thing again because you will not get it from me.

I am trying to point out, as gently as I can, that there is good reason for printing in Orders and Notices what legislation we will deal with. There is good reason for the precedents and practice in this House that some minister has to be responsible for legislation. Neither one of them is in here tonight.

I am trying to be gentle about it, but as I look across the way, I will repeat what I said earlier: there is no minister of any consequence in here. This is one heck of a way to run a railroad, particularly when I hear that we may be dealing with amendments I have not yet seen.

Mr. Cureatz: The Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) is here.

Mr. McClellan: That is what he said: no minister of consequence.

Mr. Breagh: I am talking to the back of his head; so I do not know whether he is here or elsewhere. It does not make much difference.

All I am trying to do is give a small amount of notice that, in my humble opinion, this is not the way to proceed with legislation, unanimous consent or not. Whether or not we relented earlier this evening and gave unanimous consent, that should not become a practice around here.

There is good reason for printing in Orders and Notices what we will deal with, and there is good reason to follow the past practices. The minister who brings the bill into the Legislature ought to be around when the debate on second reading occurs, and neither one of them is here.

We are getting more than liberal, one might say, with our interpretation of the rules around here. We are getting downright loose and sleazy, and I do not think it is a good way to proceed.

Let me deal quickly with my concerns about the legislation that is before us. It appears the people in Haldimand-Norfolk have been given part of what they want. The difficulty I have is that when we do our research into whether this is really a response to a local request, we have somewhat limited resources and certainly not as many as the government has.

All the area municipalities appear to me satisfied with the process of electing members and the term of office. Two of the area municipalities have some reservations about the areas that are included. The local member in his own inimitable fashion has put on record this evening that he too has some concerns about the geographic definitions.

Apparently we are not going to have much of an opportunity for those area municipalities to appear in a formal way before a committee of the Legislature and put forward their concerns. Whichever minister of the crown is carrying this legislation, and I cannot tell who that is, I trust that what has been presented to the House tonight is a reasonably accurate picture of what is happening. What makes me nervous is that I do not know that.

It appears I will not have the opportunity to hear in a formal way from the municipalities directly affected. We are being sold a pig in a poke this evening. We do not know the exact position of the area municipalities. We do not know whether they are going to be all upset tomorrow morning when they find out this bill has been called for second reading tonight. I do not know that. I did not know it was going to be called tonight. We do not know whether there is easy agreement with whatever amendments might be put.

In summary, I will stand by what I said initially. It is my judgement that the legislation before us tonight is supportable, and we will support it, but I want to put on the record that I have serious reservations about the way we are proceeding with this bill. It does not seem to me to be a sensible way to proceed. While we have given unanimous consent to do so this evening, I

want to serve notice that I do not intend to do it again.

I believe there is an obligation on the part of the government to give everybody proper notice about this kind of legislation. There is an obligation on the part of the government to give all those people who are directly affected by it sufficient notice so that if they have a problem with a piece of legislation they have an opportunity to state their case. I am getting more than a little concerned that this is not going to happen.

If I were being particularly cynical, I would draw some kind of conspiracy theory around this and say that somebody wanted to whip this one through without notice, that somebody would be quite happy to deal with all this tonight and not take it off to committee, that somebody was trying to walk both sides of the street here. As you know, Mr. Speaker, I do not believe in conspiracies. I am a straightforward, honest kind of fellow and I take this at face value.

I want to put on the record that if I start getting phone calls tomorrow morning from people saying they did not know this legislation was going to be called, they wanted an opportunity to appear before a committee and they are unhappy with any amendments that might be proposed tonight, I am going to get very angry.

I want members to remember my concerns about the way we are proceeding with this bill. I do not want to be put in a position where somebody comes to me at 8:15 p.m. and says, "The local member would like to proceed with this tonight." I am then put in the rather invidious position of trying to be a reasonable person with a bill that appears to be supportable on the surface. I have to make that judgement.

After this one, we are going to play it by the book. After this one, I am going to get a little more insistent that ministers who put their names on a piece of legislation and stick it in Orders and Notices had better be around when the bill goes through. At least somebody had better be around who is in control of the ship.

There are a couple of ministers sitting over there, one of whom moved this legislation. I do not want to question his ability as a minister, but I bet neither of the two ministers present tonight has dealt very much with this piece of legislation. I do not think I am fishing too far there. They may be aware of the number of the bill, they may have called the bill and they may be aware that it is a government bill, but I would not like to grill those two gentlemen too thoroughly on the contents and ramifications of this bill.

We are establishing some practices here this evening that are unfortunate. On the surface, the arguments in the bill appear to be straightforward. On that basis and on the basis of some contacts we made from my office to the local municipalities, I am going to recommend to my caucus mates that we support this bill on second reading. But I hope the cautions and the ramifications of dealing with this type of legislation in the future are clear. I do not want to nitpick, but there are some rules around this joint on how to deal with this kind of legislation. After tonight, we are going to play by those rules.

9:30 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the member for Oshawa with great care. To some extent I share his concern that the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing does not have the carriage of his own legislation. I do not know what sort of agreement was made when he took the job. I do not know whether the member for Wilson Heights was going to carry his legislation and the minister would just spend his time supporting leadership candidates or something like that. I have never been able to figure that out.

In this instance, we are dealing with the local administration of hydro commissions. I suppose there is some reason why the Minister of Energy might have the carriage of the bill. In his absence, to go another step, his parliamentary assistant is in a position to answer the questions. Frankly, I am here to assure members that in our discussions with the ministry on this, the minister has been quite helpful and he is as knowledgeable as anyone over there is. I appreciate his assistance in this connection.

The matter having to do with Haldimand-Norfolk is complicated by two or three matters. One matter that in some respects is to the advantage of all the people concerned is that the electoral boundaries between Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and Haldimand-Norfolk sort of wander right through the middle of these municipalities. These people have the advantage of two effective members. Although there are people in the area who are prepared to say nasty things about the electoral boundaries commission, I say with great respect to any members of previous commissions who happen to be in the House who were good enough to draw the line where it was, it means both the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) and myself share the responsibility to express the views of local municipal politicians and the electorate in these matters.

The problem here has to do with the formation of one of the municipalities, the city of Nanticoke. It is a marvellous place with excellent municipal leadership. When we hear of the city of Nanticoke in this House—except for the few people who were here for the passage of the bill—one tends to think of a nice, small city in rural Ontario which is close to the largest coal-fired electrical generating station in the world, certainly in North America. The new Stelco works down there is a great pride to the community and offers some employment.

The city of Nanticoke is largely a rural area with great expectations of growth. At least it had such expectations 10 or 12 years ago, when the then Treasurer of Ontario predicted there would be a population of 200,000, if not by now at least in the next few years. However, we have found that there has been negative population growth over these years; so those dreams associated with the former Treasurer, Mr. White, have somehow not been fulfilled.

One of the former Treasurer's dreams was the establishment of a new city called Townsend. The member for Haldimand-Norfolk has already mentioned that Townsend does exist. About \$60 million to \$70 million has been spent on it. I believe there are now 100 families living there. I visited it, since a part of it is in my constituency and part is in the constituency of my colleague. It is a beautiful place. It should be for all the public money that has been spent there on beautiful tennis courts, an artificial lake, everything one could possibly imagine, including subsidized prices for dwellings. That is grand for the people who live there. I congratulate them on their good fortune, but we in this Legislature know the government has made a huge commitment to the growth of that community which is as yet, shall we say, unrealized.

In addition to part of Townsend, the city of Nanticoke has the beautiful community of Waterford—which could have absorbed a lot of this growth, but it was decided it would be all centralized elsewhere—and the community of Port Dover. Some members may have visited Port Dover. The member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) perks up his eyebrows because anybody younger than me tends to visit Port Dover during the summer on any and all occasions. It is a great place to visit. It has marvellous attributes and attractions that used to interest even me.

Mr. Gillies: Marvellous theatre.

Mr. Nixon: Theatre, yes; the honourable member mentions the theatre. I am thinking more

of the perch, but chacun son gout, as we say in South Dumfries.

The hydroelectric boards envisaged here really just preserve the status quo in Nanticoke. Those who buy their power from Ontario Hydro have thought about how they would like to get out from under Hydro's thumb and buy from a local public utilities commission because it is cheaper and the service is good. I wish I could get service from the local municipality through an extended electric service board or whatever.

However, they are not going to extend these boundaries in Nanticoke because a large part of it is still rural, as it was when the city was constituted by act of this Legislature. I think the alternative is presented that in the long run it would offer boundaries at the ward level, which is an interesting alternative. Ward 3, for example, which I have the honour to represent, has the town of Waterford and many very productive acres of farm land.

It is interesting to note that the Ontario Land Corp. owns many of those acres. The buildings have largely fallen down and the fences have deteriorated, but the farmers who are renting are still very good field husbandrymen indeed and the fields are kept productive in spite of the machinations of the Treasury of Ontario trying to give away as much money as it possibly could in that area.

The point is that the prospect of extending the boundaries of these electric boards out to the boundaries of the wards is somewhat remote at this time. When growth does occur, then the extension can take place. But the bill makes it plain that the boundaries stay where they are or else they move directly to the ward boundaries; they do not move out in stages.

It is also quite clear that these boards deal only with electricity and do not serve the areas where there is a water board or a local sewage board instead of combining that function. For this reason, the city of Nanticoke has expressed some objections over the years and is not entirely satisfied, although in essence the passage of the bill does not make very much difference to it, but it does replace the three public utilities commissions with one electric board.

One of the concerns is that the whole concept of regionalization in the area was a completely cockamammy scheme. It was seen as such at the time it was imposed on the area, and most of my constituents in talking to me still feel it was a mistake leading only to remote government and high costs for the provision of local services. I am

not prepared to make a regional government speech now, but when I was thinking—

Interjection.

Mr. Nixon: My friend the member for St. Catharines is anxious to get on with his debate.

Mr. Bradley: Oh, no; I am ready for a regional government speech by my friend.

Mr. Nixon: We were actually hoping the honourable Darcy McKeough would throw his hat into the leadership ring so we could dust off some of our regional government speeches, but unfortunately we are not going to have the opportunity to do that.

As far as these boards are concerned, the objections have been expressed over many years by Nanticoke, because it feels that although the ministry and its officials have communicated with it by a series of letters and personal interviews in trying to work it out for the benefit of all, Nanticoke still has not been fully satisfied. At the same time, the town of Simcoe does want this bill so it can extend its boundaries and give direct and lower-cost service to many of its citizens, who for many months and years have had to buy their power at the elevated prices of Ontario Hydro.

To get back to the concerns expressed by the member for Oshawa, I suppose there are people in the area who would like to come down and express those views. The government is not interested in having those committee meetings. I suppose we could complain, and I do, that it said it was not even that interested in going forward with the bill. It has already been lagging for a decade when we could have gone forward with a bill better than this to provide the service that is required by all the people.

9:40 p.m.

Rather than have the government withdraw the bill, we think we can go forward; and if it needs amendment a year from now, I hope the government will consider accepting suggestions for improvement. I regret we have not had a chance to have all of the concerned citizens, and particularly the municipal leaders in the area, come into our committee to express their views.

We have seen the correspondence—it is public correspondence, and it is actually fairly voluminous—that has gone back and forth in attempt to work it out to the complete satisfaction of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing and its parliamentary assistant and the Minister of Energy and his parliamentary assistant. This bill is evidently the best the government is

prepared to give, and the alternative is no bill at all.

As far as Simcoe is concerned, it is quite anxious to go forward. I do not believe the city of Nanticoke is totally satisfied; as a matter of fact, I am quite sure it is not. On the other hand, I do believe it is reasonable to go forward, and we hope we can improve the situation in the future.

My own feeling as a long-term critic of Ontario Hydro is that if we can do something to get more citizens buying their power from a public utility commission instead of paying the rapidly escalating Ontario Hydro prices, we should certainly do so.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Can I obtain the unanimous consent of the House to have the member for Chatham-Kent close off the debate on behalf of the minister?

Agreed to.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate very much the comments from across the House. We are well aware of the fact that there have been volumes of correspondence and meetings on this. There has been a great attempt to come up with something the area there and the government can live with.

One of the basic problems we address here, of course, is whether or not one is going to allow municipalities to take in only their serviced areas. Their main argument is that if they service a growing area with water and sewers they should be able to service it with electricity.

Mr. Nixon: It makes a lot of sense.

Mr. Watson: There are arguments against that and there are arguments for it. The argument against it really is that when you do it with water and sewers you are not taking it over from a rural sewage disposal system or a rural water system, there is no system out there. When we have a case such as this, all of the citizens of this great community and all others are serviced with electricity and it is a matter of who administers that. It creates a lot of problems.

I am sure that some people, like the member for Waterloo North and the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty), would very much object if we were to allow these areas to expand a little bit when, as a result of the Hogg committee report in 1975, when they had to expand boundaries they had to expand all the way out to the outskirts.

There is a lot of sympathy for the arguments of these communities, but to allow them to take in only the serviced area they have expanded on would not be fair in any way to the communities that have already expanded.

The bill does provide that the council will be required to review every five years whether or not it is going to expand. It does not have to, that decision is left with it, but at least it has this option at that time.

I would like to say in response to the member for Oshawa that the Minister of Energy is in estimates tonight. He is in the precinct, but his estimates are going forward and that is where he is.

In the history of all the regional bills this will be the 12th bill. I understand it has been the Ministry of Energy that has carried the bills because when the regional acts were created, all those bills were rolled into the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, but the people still associate with the Ministry of Energy and correspond with it regarding their hydroelectric commissions.

I want to assure the member for Oshawa and others that this amendment, which was sent over to the opposition on Tuesday evening, will be quite acceptable, because the way the bill was drafted one could have been disfranchised—

Mr. Breaugh: What is the member talking about?

Mr. Watson: It is on a sheet and it is a very short one. Anyway, the bill as originally drafted—

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: He informs me now that some time Tuesday night somebody sent an amendment somewhere. I am telling him I do not have the amendment; I have not seen it. If he wants to inform me of something, I have an office here where we go through the correspondence regularly.

I have seen no amendment and I have no idea what it is. That is a very unfortunate way to proceed when informing members about amendments.

The Acting Speaker: That is not a point of order. Anyway, amendments come forward in committee.

Mr. Watson: I will speak on the amendment when we move into committee. The original drafting could have disfranchised some voters. That was noticed after the original draft. We would not want that to happen and we wish to correct it.

With those few comments, I will end my remarks regarding Bill 89.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

House in committee of the whole.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF SUDBURY AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 91, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Sudbury Act.

On section 1:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Watson moves that subsection 26b(9) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by inserting after “within” in the eighth line “or are owners or tenants of the land within.”

Shall the amendment carry?

Mr. Breaugh: Hold on, Mr. Chairman. I seem to be running afoul of the chair this evening, but I want to point out that we have standing order 58 that deals with the process of providing people with copies of amendments. I recognize there are weasel words at the front that say “when time permits.”

What has caught my attention in my ire this evening is that the parliamentary assistant said earlier that he could have given us these amendments a couple of days ago and he did not. He is really pushing it when he flaunts it that way. He had amendments of this nature well within the time. He knew what he wanted to do. He had them and he did not provide the members of the opposition parties with those amendments.

Let me conclude like this: even if he had the world's greatest amendments, would it not make more sense to get them printed on time and get them out as early as possible, so that even members of his own government party—God forbid they should ever read what is put under their noses—would have a chance to take a look at them to see whether the amendments being proposed were sensible and rational.

Would it not be reasonable for him to ask people such as us on the other side of the House to take a look at amendments he is proposing ahead of the discussion so that we know what it is he wants to amend and so that we have an opportunity to ask the municipalities that are affected whether they are in agreement with the amendments or not?

He has asked us to buy a pig in a poke consistently this evening, and I am going to tell him right now that we are not buying this pig in this poke. I do not care whether it is a good amendment or a bad one. If he does not have the good common sense to stick it under my nose a day or so ahead of time and give us a chance to give it some proper consideration, I would be a fool to support it on that basis and I do not intend to.

9:50 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, whether this is apropos anything or not, we on this side received the amendments on Tuesday. Our critic for the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing got one and the two of us in the areas concerned got them. I do not know why the New Democratic Party did not get them. They may have gone to their House leader. I guess the amendments came to me; I do not know.

I have a little sympathy for the member for Oshawa, but he must have had his mean pills with his milkshake tonight. Maybe in the absence of his House leader, he feels he has to maintain that tradition of prickliness. I can assure the chairman those of us in the area feel the amendment is proper. We hope it carries. We certainly had notice of it two days ago. The rules say "notice, if possible."

Mr. Watson: I apologize for that. I personally delivered them. As far as the NDP is concerned, I believe I delivered the amendments to the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel). I thought he would be speaking on the bill because it represents his area. I apologize for that.

Mr. Breaugh: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) mentioned the members "in the area." I want to point out we are on Bill 91, the Sudbury resolution.

Mr. Nixon: Sorry about that.

Mr. Breaugh: This is how well informed we are this evening. The member is not quite sure which bill we are talking about.

Mr. Chairman: Shall the amendment to subsection 26b(9) carry? Carried.

Agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Watson moves that part IV-A of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by adding thereto the following section:

"26c(1) In this section, "town" means the municipality or corporation of the town of Onaping Falls or the town of Walden, as the case requires.

"(2) Where the town purchases the assets used by a person to supply power in the area of the town, the council of the town shall establish by bylaw the commission for the town provided for in section 26d.

"(3) The commission mentioned in subsection 2 shall distribute and supply power only in the area of the town supplied with power by the person from whom the town purchased the assets.

"(4) The commission shall commence to distribute and supply power in the area on the date that shall be specified by the council in the bylaw.

"(5) A bylaw under subsection 2 does not require the consent of Ontario Hydro.

"(6) Where the council of the town establishes the commission mentioned in subsection 2, subsections 26e(1) and (2) apply with necessary modifications to the town and to the commission and, for the purpose,

"(a) a reference to the council shall be deemed to be a reference to the council of the town;

"(b) a reference to the new commission shall be deemed to be a reference to the commission mentioned in subsection 2; and

"(c) a reference to the area municipality shall be deemed to be a reference to the town."

And that the following sections of the act, 26c to 26m inclusive as set out in the bill, be renumbered as 26d to 26o inclusive.

Mr. Breaugh: Could I correct a typographical error in the copy I have? At the bottom of subsection 6, there are three clauses marked "a," "b" and "a." The last time I looked at the alphabet, it went "a," "b" and "c." The member might want to correct that little error.

Mr. Chairman: Does the parliamentary assistant have any opening comments on the amendment or did he cover it in reading it?

Mr. Watson: I think I covered "a," "b" and "c." I would like that corrected. In my comments about the bill, I did mention the reason this amendment was not included in the original bill is because this was a relatively recent development in that area. It provides that, if and when they want to purchase these assets from Inco, they can go ahead and do so.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of the amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Any further amendments?

Mr. Watson: The first amendment has to be repeated in another subsection.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Watson moves that subsection 26d(6) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by inserting after "within" in the eighth line "or owners or tenants of the land within."

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Chairman, I hope in future when these bills come in, with all the staff they have available over there, they hire themselves a proofreader so they can check these things out before they bring them to the Legislature. That would avoid a lot of problems for everyone.

Could I respectfully suggest that to them? There are hundreds of people in the Ministry of Energy and hundreds of people in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; thousands of them. Cannot someone be hired to resolve some of these minor problems?

Mr. Chairman: I thank the member. There are no typos or anything in section 2.

Sections 2 and 3 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HALDIMAND-NORFOLK AMENDMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 89, An Act to amend the Regional Municipality of Haldimand-Norfolk Act.

On section 1:

Mr. Watson: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment. It is, in essence, a similar amendment to the others.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Watson moves that subsection 50b(13) of the act, as set out in section 1 of the bill, be amended by inserting after "within" in the eighth line "or are owners or tenants of land within."

Mr. Watson: This amendment is for the same reasons. If this is not changed, people who own property within the area and do not live there will be disfranchised. This is to correct that error.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of the amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 2 and 3 agreed to.

Bill, as amended, ordered to be reported.

10 p.m.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Eaton, the committee of the whole House reported two bills with certain amendments.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to address one of the most important documents presented to this House for consideration, the budget of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). I had the opportunity the other day, along with my colleague the Liberal critic for the Treasury, to discuss the spending estimates of the Treasury and I touched on a couple of issues that are of particular importance to those of us in the opposition.

I was parochial enough to touch on some items of specific interest to the Niagara Peninsula, although they have importance across the province. If I wanted to isolate the one problem the budget should be addressing most forcefully and comprehensively, it would be unemployment.

Many of the surveys taken recently have reflected the feeling in the province that the inflationary spiral that was once present is not the number one problem people are looking at, although they are still concerned about the cost of living.

Most people seem to be touched by unemployment through knowing someone in the family, a relative, a friend or someone on the street who is unemployed, and they recognize the adverse effect this has on a person psychologically, most certainly economically and otherwise.

I see the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) here tonight. He understands what a community going through unemployment has to face, particularly when some of the unemployed people are older workers who have a difficult time getting new jobs.

I remember being contacted last week by a constituent of mine whom I will call Joe S. He is 61 years old. He has been unemployed for 17 months, almost a year and a half, and has few prospects of getting another job although he has tried many times to locate new employment.

His number one sin is his age. He is ambitious enough to want to look for another job. He was a good employee for the company with which he was employed over the years. He has been ambitious enough to knock on the doors of a good many employers, even those outside his own specific sphere of qualifications in terms of his past experience. However, he has few prospects of meaningful employment.

He informed me that when he goes to apply for a job, it may not say, "How old are you?" or

"age" on the form—in some cases it does not have that; I forget whether Ontario legislation prohibits that now. However, when he lists that he has been working for a good many years for a company, it is quite obvious the employer is dealing with an older worker.

We have a person who is extremely ambitious and wants to provide for himself and his family. He does not want to lose his automobile, home and other belongings, but having used up his unemployment insurance benefits and probably dipping into savings, he is now in difficult circumstances. He is one of those people who are victims of a plant closing, and there are many of them in St. Catharines and in other communities.

Regional councillor Bill Marshall, a former international representative of the United Auto Workers, has been deeply involved with the various programs the federal government has set up to help those who are in these circumstances. One of the options this gentleman has is early retirement, but it is not financially rewarding for him to contemplate that particular avenue of action.

We in the Ontario Legislature, and those in the federal Parliament, have placed a good deal of emphasis and concentration on the unemployment facing our youth. Heaven knows, youth unemployment in this province is extremely high and it is discouraging to those people. But in our desire to focus a lot of attention on the problem of youth unemployment, where the figures are extremely alarming, we have placed less emphasis on the problems confronting older workers who for various reasons have lost their jobs.

I know the government has one program, which was described in this budget, which allows for some kind of retraining and some incentive to employers. However, it does not seem to be serving all that many people in an appropriate fashion.

It seems to me we need two things. First of all, we need a budget that will stimulate the economy even more to produce the jobs that are required. Second, we need some specific programs geared to the needs of people who are in the category of this constituent of mine, who faces the same problems as many other people in his age category.

This person says that when he goes to an employer in the private sector, no specific reason is given but he is quite certain his age is the reason he cannot obtain employment.

One suggestion I will make to the House, and I hope this government will take it into consideration as a positive and constructive suggestion, is

that the provincial government and its agencies, boards and commissions as well as the lower echelons of government, the municipal levels of government, should be persuaded to move in the same direction; that is, to hire people based on their qualifications rather than on their age.

In other words, when this person goes to a provincial government ministry where there happens to be an opening, the door should not be slammed in his face because he happens to be 61 years old. That is where our public sector can set an example for the private sector, rather than simply urging the private sector to move in that direction.

I know that borders on a quota system or on affirmative action, which some people tend to resist, but what I am really asking for is a lack of discrimination on the part of the public sector to assist individuals, such as this man, who become quite depressed over their circumstances, which come about as a result of something that is not their own fault. It is not as though this person quit a job. This person has been thrown out after many years of service to a company because it was no longer economic for that company to operate in the community.

I hope there is compassion in this House for that kind of person. I hope there is another specific program geared to help people of this kind. I hope also the economy can be stimulated through more budgetary measures aimed at bringing about the kind of economic climate in this province that would encourage the private sector to hire more people.

Another area I would like to dwell on very briefly tonight is that of spending in the field of social services.

There is a perception out there that people in our province are against more social spending, that if you knocked on the doors on your street, those people would say: "We have to cut everybody off welfare. We have to cut back on this and cut back on that."

There may be some feeling that those who are capable of fending for themselves should not receive the kind of public assistance some have been able to obtain. But for those who are unable to fend for themselves, the disadvantaged and the handicapped in this province, there is a good deal of good will out there for such people.

10:10 p.m.

In my part of the province, the Niagara region, there is an appalling situation facing people who are mentally retarded. I know some people in the House do not like to talk about the rather difficult circumstances faced by those people. There are

media reports coming out this week and next that will reveal a rather disconcerting circumstance facing mentally retarded people.

When the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) initiated the program of deinstitutionalization, he had some support from some quarters, particularly from those who might have had people in institutions and wanted to have them closer to home. This is not to suggest that those institutions were providing bad service. It is not to suggest that they were the snake pit we saw in the movies in the 1950s. It is to suggest that some of those people would be able to function and cope quite nicely in a community with the necessary facilities and programs to handle them. What has happened is that there are simply not the programs, facilities and the accommodation to handle the problems faced by these people.

I know of one mentally retarded person in the Niagara region who up until this week was living in a car. There were some other people living in an abandoned factory; I think they have now moved to the Salvation Army centre as a result of some action taken on their behalf. There are others living around the Niagara region in what some people would define as flophouses.

This is simply not good enough for a province as rich as Ontario that spends as much as it does on other things. I could recite the usual things we in the opposition recite, the \$650 million spent on Suncor, the hundreds of millions of dollars spent on questionable land banking schemes, the \$50 million on advertising, the \$45 million on Minaki Lodge, and the list goes on. It would be easier to sustain those expenditures if we knew this government was meeting a genuine need and commitment in other areas.

I would suggest that no one in this House, regardless of political affiliation, would deny to mentally handicapped people appropriate programs, accommodation and facilities. Yet in the Niagara region this situation has been allowed to exist for some time now. There are probably more than 100 people on various waiting lists.

I get calls from parents who are now getting on in years. They are not particularly old but may be in their 50s or 60s. They are now looking after children who are out of their teens, still relatively young mentally handicapped people who are getting older and moving into middle age. They are wondering what will happen to their children when they themselves die or become incapacitated because of illness or for other reasons. I think they are justified in saying, and I think the figures will bear them out, that there are

not the facilities or programs for these people now.

We have a core residence for young people called Barnsdale in St. Catharines. It is supposed to be for young people, yet at present there are adults accommodated in that building because there is no place for the adults to go. I believe there is an adult protection service worker who goes around to check on various mentally handicapped people in the peninsula to see how they are making out. I suspect if that person were before a committee of this House, she could tell some rather interesting horror stories about what is really happening in the peninsula.

When I question the minister on this, I get the response that these people and the associations for the mentally retarded in the Niagara region have to learn to get together, to amalgamate. It sounds very much like the enforced regionalization we saw with municipal government in our part of the province. That was not well received.

For the Ministry of Community and Social Services to hold over the heads of the associations for the mentally retarded in the Niagara region, the threat that if they do not amalgamate or regionalize, they cannot expect funds to be flowing quickly, is simply not acceptable when the consequence of this action is that the people who are mentally handicapped do not have appropriate facilities.

This is not an issue one exploits for political reasons. This is a very compassionate issue and one with which I have attempted to deal on a behind-the-scenes basis for quite a while. The people themselves have taken the initiative. The parents of the mentally retarded and the associations for the mentally retarded have been presenting their case to the ministry, while the political representatives in that part of the province have agreed to stay back a bit and see what kind of progress they could make.

The progress has not been good enough over the past few years. It is now a case of those of us who are representatives bringing this matter forward in public debate in this Legislature and through the media of television, radio and print. That is unfortunate. I would have preferred to have the progress made without that kind of publicity. I do not like to see that happen. I believe the mentally handicapped deserve the attention of members of this House through the appropriate funding, without having to become involved in media coverage themselves. Yet that is what it seems to take to get the required action.

I am calling upon this government, through its budgetary measures—and I wish there were more

money in the budget for it—to allocate those funds to provide an adult core residence, training facilities and other programs which are very much required by young and older mentally handicapped people in our part of the province. I hope that message gets through to the Minister of Community and Social Services and to the Treasurer, who is responsible for the budget. I intend to continue to press this matter until there is a satisfactory resolution.

Another area I want to touch on is that of spending on health care services. If any of us were to talk to most of our constituents, we would find they are prepared to accept government spending in a couple of areas quite readily. One such area is for the handicapped, be they physically or mentally handicapped people, and others who are genuinely disadvantaged. There is a lot of goodwill for spending in that area. A second area is health care, and a third is the environment. In our part of the province, the environment would rank very high.

With respect to health care, despite the figures we hear—and I know these are professional people who come forward with these figures about beds per 1,000 and so on—more hospital beds are required in many parts of the province. At present, people have to wait for elective surgery. Some will say: “What is the difference if they have to wait? It is elective surgery anyway. It is not essential surgery. So what is the difference?”

The difference is for the many people who have not had surgery, and I am among those. The idea of getting psyched up for the surgery itself is hard to face. Some people have to work really hard on their emotions and mental condition to get themselves ready to face surgery. Then just when they are ready to face surgery, and perhaps they have taken time off work and have planned other accommodations for their children, as soon as all the arrangements have been made, they are called within hours of the operation and told: “Sorry, there is no bed for you. The operation is cancelled.”

It is a tremendous letdown for these people. They have managed to work up enough courage for it, they have made the other arrangements and then they are cut off from that surgery, which is considered to be elective. That is not satisfactory, and that is brought about because there is not a sufficient number of hospital beds available at the right time.

There is also a need for specialized equipment. I was very proud of the people in our community who raised the funds for a new computerized

axial tomography scanner, which will help in diagnosis in our part of the province. We had people, such as Joe West, who headed up the campaign in St. Catharines, and many others who worked very hard, who raised funds from those who contributed a few dollars, such as kids who got together with neighbourhood projects, to those who contributed several thousand dollars for the placement of that scanner in St. Catharines.

10:20 p.m.

However, one has to wonder whether the obtaining of such equipment should be dependent upon the good people in the community being able to raise the money and whether sufficient money is available in the community to be raised for purposes of this kind. I suggest governments have a greater role to play with respect to the provision and operation of these kinds of important pieces of equipment.

We know that many projects for hospitals are undertaken by volunteer groups. It is not the provincial government that provides many of these facilities and much of this equipment in hospitals. Instead, it is the ladies auxiliary of a hospital, as it might be called, or other groups that happen to be working with hospitals to raise funds for those items. Those people are to be very much commended and are to be given the credit for it, but one wonders whether they are getting sufficient support from the provincial government in providing other equipment and the ongoing operating costs.

Looking at at my own centre in St. Catharines, I raised with the Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Mr. Dean), who happened to be in the House that day when the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) was not—the Minister of Health, by the way, is usually here; I am not making any comments about that in a disparaging way. However, on Friday he was not here and I directed my question to a gentleman who does not really have responsibility for the allocation of funds, but I know he is interested in these areas. It was for a women's detoxification centre in St. Catharines.

The government claims to be interested in women's issues and claims to be interested in advancing the cause of women in this province. However, in St. Catharines we have a men's detox centre that has worked well because it allows people to be serviced for, I think, \$27.50 a day compared to probably \$265 a day in a hospital bed, if we want to take all the costs of a hospital bed per day.

By having a women's detox centre available, women would not have to go into a place called Women's Place Inc., which is really not suited for this; it is really for battered women. Some of them go there, some end up in the psychiatric ward at the St. Catharines General Hospital and others end up in regular beds in a hospital. It is not really satisfactory, when a detox centre can provide the same service.

If one wants to look at it from the straight economic point of view, it saves the government money. More importantly, it saves the taxpayer money to have these people serviced in a detox centre compared to a hospital. However, the funds have not been forthcoming. I think they talked about \$130,000 a year for this five-person centre for women. I hope the Minister of Health will move quickly on that. I know he has been prodded by the Provincial Secretary for Social Development, or at least informed of my question by the provincial secretary who, I am sure, shares my view that women should be treated equally with men when they have problems such as alcoholism, which takes such a toll on many people.

I also want to get in a plug for the local offices of the Addiction Research Foundation. There was a debate in this House the other night and the standing committee on procedural affairs has tried to place some onus on the Addiction Research Foundation local offices to provide justification for their continued existence. I have received considerable correspondence from various groups and agencies that feel the local offices provide a good service, and that the Legislature should move very cautiously when it attempts to redefine and change the role of the local offices.

I hope the Minister of Health will take that into consideration and not move rapidly and rashly to remove those offices from existence. I think they play a role. I think there is a need for consultation with them to see whether there is a better role they can play, but I would not want to see them abolished.

It also comes to mind that I have received representations from the Niagara Peninsula Rehabilitation Centre and other groups there. We have a need in our part of the province in one of those facilities for a speech therapist and the funding is not forthcoming. There are lots of needs that exist in terms of health. I am suggesting to the members of this House that the public is prepared to see increased spending on health care, and probably decreased spending in other areas, by this province.

The Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines has, I think, made representations to the effect that it would like to be a cancer treatment centre in the peninsula. We are fortunate in this part of the province that, not far away, we have Henderson General Hospital in Hamilton, which does a lot of cancer treatment, and the McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton.

People come to Toronto to Princess Margaret Hospital and the Wellesley Hospital, and other hospitals, for treatment when they have problems with cancer. But treatment can be effected at the local level. The people can be at home, have the support of family nearby and reduce the stress placed on their family and friends by being at home to receive those treatments. I hope the proposal for a cancer treatment centre at Hotel Dieu Hospital is looked at favourably.

When I speak of hospital spending, another hospital I want to look at is the St. Catharines General Hospital. When I look around the House, I suspect there are many people who would give the same speech from their ridings about what is available.

We have two wings there, the McSloy and Moore wings, which certainly would not make your heart beam with pride—if a heart can beam—or make your face beam with pride, I suppose, or do very much good for your heart if you went through them.

They are really used as chronic care areas for elderly people. That McSloy wing in the hospital is like a dungeon. This is despite the fact that the staff there are just immaculate; they do an outstanding job. The hospital authorities would love to see this kind of facility replaced. The present structure in that part of the hospital is very old and depressing. Paint is peeling from the walls and so on. Even though the hospital makes a big effort to keep it up, it is just that the wings are so old that those walls and that section of the hospital should be replaced.

The hospital has made a proposal to put in a new chronic care facility on its own property for people who require it. There is a need for an expanded emergency care facility at the St. Catharines General Hospital, which could use an infusion of provincial funding.

I know my colleague, the member for Brock (Mr. Welch), who represents a good portion of St. Catharines, on the other side is likely making many of the same cases in cabinet to the Treasurer, to others who have some say in how much is spent in total, and to the Minister of Health. I know he would agree with me it would be nice to see a greater infusion of funds. I think I

can count on the fact he will agree with me it would be nice to see a greater infusion of funds in those areas.

I mentioned as well the environment. In our part of the province, environmental issues are extremely important. In St. Catharines, we live about 12 miles from the Niagara River. All across the Niagara Peninsula and right across the social and economic spectrum that we have there, there is a concern about the environment. A lot of Conservative friends of mine, for instance, are always saying to me: "Come on, Bradley. Get up in the House and give them heck about their commitment to cleaning up the environment." They are concerned about it and they recognize that an opposition spokesman probably has that kind of freedom to get up publicly and talk about a lot of problems that exist in the environment.

The present minister has made some inroads into that; I want to say that to him. I would like to keep an open mind on the new minister and give him the chance to make his mark. I think he is moving too slowly, but I think he is moving nevertheless. I do not doubt his sincerity in his commitment to cleaning up the environment, but we have a very special problem with the Niagara River and with the Great Lakes at large.

Once again, I think that by cleaning up our side of the border we place considerable pressure on the Americans to do the same, because most of the problem, quite frankly, exists on the American side, in New York state, with respect to the

toxic chemicals that are making their way into the Niagara River.

When my friend the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio), and I, pressed the minister for an allocation of provincial funds along with the federal funds for secondary sewage treatment at the Chippewa plant in Niagara Falls, and eventually the minister agreed with it, we had an opportunity at that time to express our pleasure with the action taken by the minister in providing those funds. I think the same could be done with the plant in Fort Erie, which also goes into the Niagara River, to increase the quality of the effluent going in. We could brag to the Americans that we were squeaky clean on our side.

I see we are moving towards 10:30. The Minister of Health also approved the funds after we raised the matter in the House. I recall raising, as did my friend the member for Niagara Falls, the need for an epidemiological study of the Niagara region—that is, a study of the relationship between the contaminants in the environment and diseases that take place. I am pleased that this has come about, but I want to develop a second stage, which will cost us even more money.

Mr. Speaker, I see that it is getting very close to 10:30 of the clock, as you say.

On motion by Mr. Bradley, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Friday, November 2, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, November 2, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO CAREER WEEK

Hon. Mr. Dean: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment today to inform my honourable colleagues that Ontario Career Week will commence next Monday. From November 5 to 11, schools throughout the province will be initiating activities designed to help our young people in elementary and secondary schools to realize the advantages of career planning and to become familiar with the many career options available to them.

I am delighted that for the fifth consecutive year this secretariat has the lead role in co-ordinating Ontario Career Week initiatives. This year our theme, "Focus on tomorrow: take stock, take aim, take action," assists students in examining their individual aptitudes, interests and skills in order that they may make knowledgeable career decisions. We want to help them select employment areas where they will have the greatest chance of achieving their full potential.

Teachers and guidance counsellors have traditionally taken the lead in organizing local career week activities. The Provincial Secretariat for Social Development has prepared resource kits to assist them in this endeavour but, most important, we believe business has a vital role to play in preparing students for the future.

With this in mind, we have developed a special career week guide for business leaders. This new guide, which has already been distributed to the presidents of major corporations and industries throughout Ontario, suggests a variety of ways in which businesses can help to strengthen the impact of Ontario Career Week.

Participating in local career symposiums, hosting tours of their company, inviting students to spend a day at the work place learning about a diverse range of jobs or being a spokesperson at a school's career day are just a few of the suggestions we have put forth to business leaders. All these activities will give students a better understanding of different work environments and the skills required for various occupations. I also believe business leaders will them-

selves benefit from their participation in Ontario Career Week in that they will be helping to prepare those who will be tomorrow's job candidates.

One other important aspect of Ontario Career Week is that it provides an opportunity for young women to explore careers in which women have been underrepresented in the past. Informing all students about nontraditional jobs will give them an impetus to take courses and learn skills that may lead to better and more interesting employment. It will also increase the pool of young people who can fill employers' demands for technical and trade skills.

Ontario Career Week is a straightforward approach to helping our young people plan for their future in the marketplace. It is in the interests of all of us to see that today's students are prepared for tomorrow's opportunities.

I encourage my fellow members to assist schools in their individual constituencies with the development of Ontario Career Week initiatives. Copies of our resource guides have already been sent to each member. Should they wish additional guides, my youth secretariat will be happy to provide them.

I am pleased to have had this opportunity to inform my colleagues about Ontario Career Week 1984.

PRESENTATION OF BOOK

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to present to the members Decades of Service, a 50-year history of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Copies of the book have already been given to His Honour the Lieutenant Governor and to the Premier (Mr. Davis). Decades of Service is now available to all members of the House and has been put in their mailboxes.

Unfortunately the author, Dr. Clifford Williams, cannot be with us today. I want to point out that Dr. Williams writes partly from his own experience in the service of the ministry as a regional director and as a manager of corporate policy, among other duties. He brings to his book the human dimension that is and always has been the vital element of this ministry's work.

The reason Dr. Williams cannot be with us today is that he is ill. We wanted to have this presentation to the Legislature in June, but unfortunately Dr. Williams was ill at that time. I want to thank His Honour the Lieutenant Governor, who very graciously arranged a special ceremony in the middle of the summer so that Dr. Williams and the late Dr. James Band, to whom the history is dedicated, could be present.

I do apologize to the Legislature. I wanted to present this book back in June, but because of these illnesses and other things we simply were not able to do so.

The Decades of Service publication points out that it has, more than anything, been the talent and compassion of many hundreds of individuals working for a better Ontario for all that has enabled us to respond to those in need in our society during five decades of constant change.

What these men and women built has admirably stood the test of time. It has accommodated the demands of a society whose initial thrust for social services was to the elderly, then to troubled youth and broken families and now once again to the elderly. Its story is one of outstanding human accomplishment, painstakingly and fascinatingly recorded in Decades of Service, a fine contribution to our provincial history in this bicentennial year.

Last Monday I said some words in tribute to Dr. James Band, who passed away last week and who was the Deputy Minister of Social and Family Services during the 1950s and 1960s. Dr. Band is the hero of this story, and the book is indeed dedicated to him. That dedication reads in part: "His inspired innovations ranged from Today's Child, a newspaper column that found families for 10,000 children, to legislation that changed dreary, overcrowded houses of refuge into modern, caring homes for the aged."

As I pointed out the other day, Dr. Band began his social services career as inspector of unemployment relief in Ottawa in the depths of the Depression and went on to serve under eight Premiers and 13 ministers of welfare. Last year, as we know, he celebrated his 50th year as an Ontario public servant.

Dr. Band was the chief architect of an array of innovative programs that have made this ministry a model to be emulated throughout the world. That is the story of Decades of Service, and there could be no finer memorial to a man who touched and changed so many lives.

10:10 a.m.

Because of the particular circumstances, there are two very special publications I want to give

today to members of the Legislature who were friends and associates of Dr. Band during their long and distinguished careers here and during his long and distinguished career as a deputy minister and adviser to ministers. One is especially dedicated to the member for Wellington South (Mr. Worton) and the second is dedicated to the member for Windsor-Walkerville (Mr. Newman). I would like the pages to take these to the members. The rest get the paperback volume.

Mr. Sweeney: Talk about discrimination.

Hon. Mr. Drea: When the the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) has served as long and as honourably as the members for Wellington South and Windsor-Walkerville, I will give him a bound volume.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I am usually sceptical any time I see the honourable minister bearing gifts; however, on behalf of my very esteemed colleagues, I thank him very much. He could not have chosen two more distinguished members of this House to honour in that way. I compliment him on his judgement. I would like to see a little more of it.

ORAL QUESTIONS

CONTRACT FOR RAILS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour is no doubt aware of the announcement by one of his federal cousins, Solicitor General Elmer MacKay, the regional minister responsible for Nova Scotia. It appears he wrested a contract for rails with Canadian National away from Algoma Steel Corp Ltd., in the home town of the Minister of Labour, and gave it to Sydney Steel Corp. in Nova Scotia. It appears that contract will be lost to Algoma, with a subsequent loss of jobs, presumably in anticipation of the Nova Scotia election to be held next week.

How many jobs are going to be lost in Sault Ste. Marie and what is the minister going to do to protect them?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, Algoma Steel will be producing the rails for Canadian Pacific, a major shareholder in Algoma Steel. It will have the rather significant volume of work from that area. Previously, Algoma Steel shared with Sydney Steel Corp. the orders that came from CN. As the Leader of the Opposition has correctly stated, that circumstance has changed and now Sydney Steel has been given the exclusive order for the CN rails, leaving the CP rails exclusively with Algoma Steel.

I just want the honourable member to know my personal friend and former campaign manager, Honourable James Kelleher, the member of Parliament for the riding of Sault Ste. Marie and the federal Minister for International Trade, has scheduled a meeting with Mr. MacKay on this matter. We will be in touch with Mr. Kelleher. In fact, I have had a phone call from him that I had hoped to be able to return before question period and was not able to do so.

Mr. Peterson: It appears from press reports that Mr. Kelleher knows no more than does the minister about this situation. Was the minister consulted? Was Algoma consulted? My information is that Algoma was not consulted; the contract was just wrenched from its grasp for political purposes and no other. It is going to translate into a loss of at least \$15 million a year to that already hard-hit community.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: The minister will be aware of that. He had a special meeting of his cabinet confrères not too long ago to try to address the problems of the depressed state of that community.

What is the minister going to do to fight to keep that contract at Algoma, where it has historically rested on the apportionment of those contracts? What is he going to do to save jobs in Ontario? Surely that is the issue and surely that is his responsibility, not only as the minister but also as the riding representative.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: At any time, did I say I was not going to do everything within my power?

Mr. Bradley: Will Hamilton be next?

Mr. Wrye: Are the Conservatives going to flip jobs back and forth from province to province every time there is an election?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am really just—oh, shut up.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, is it not the case that the minister's colleague, the Honourable James Kelleher, was elected in Sault Ste. Marie in the recent federal election on the basis that if they elected a Conservative cabinet minister they would get more jobs in Sault Ste. Marie?

Is it also not the case that Mr. Kelleher read about this in the press? Not only was the minister opposite not consulted, Mr. MacKay's own colleague in the federal cabinet was not consulted. Now Mr. Kelleher is arranging a meeting with CN and with Mr. MacKay after the barn door has been closed and the horse has escaped.

What are this minister and this provincial government going to do to prevent the Tory pork

barrel in Nova Scotia from robbing more jobs from Sault Ste. Marie?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I did not mean to sit down. I wanted to respond to the Leader of the Opposition. I did not want to be rude and disregard his question, because the question is an extremely serious one. I am wondering, however, whether the two honourable gentlemen are really concerned about the jobs in Sault Ste. Marie this morning, or are they concerned about making a little political hay at the expense of the situation?

Mr. Peterson: That is out of order, Mr. Speaker. You are quite well aware one cannot impute motives in this House. I understand the minister is a decent sort of chap and under a great deal of pressure, but that is not acceptable in this House. He is the one who has been embarrassed in this situation, not us.

The ramifications of this are extremely serious and I want to discuss them, unless the minister is not informed about it. My very specific questions are: Was the minister consulted? Did he have a say, not only as the local representative but also as the Minister of Labour? How many jobs is that going to cost Ontario? Does the minister know? Was he consulted or was he left out in the cold by his federal brethren?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The answer is a simple one: I was not told. I was not consulted by the federal Solicitor General or by anyone in the federal government. I was not consulted by the officials of Algoma Steel. I must admit, and I do so without any embarrassment whatsoever—the member suggests I might be embarrassed, but I am not—I certainly had no knowledge of these circumstances until I read about them in the Toronto Star yesterday. Since then I have been in contact with Mr. Kelleher and I will do everything in my power to try to correct this situation; that is very obvious.

I do not have to be lectured in this House about my concern for my own riding. I worked for my riding for 25-odd years before I was ever elected to this House, and that is something for which I will never apologize.

Mr. Peterson: The minister has just got a personal taste of his federal friends' idea of the new partnership. That is what we are seeing and it has just started. Let the minister watch.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. The minister will recall that yesterday in the House we discussed

the fact that she had come into a windfall of some \$13.5 million in wages that were not paid as a result of the community college strike. Today that figure is probably about \$14.5 million. In other words, the ministry is benefiting to the extent of about \$1 million a day.

Has the minister had any new insights since last evening into what she could do to use this money constructively in taking a leadership role in order to end this strike, which is obviously worrying her a great deal?

10:20 a.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the members opposite put me somewhat on the horns of a dilemma. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) says I should become directly involved and the leader of the third party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae), says I should remove myself totally.

I will continue to attempt to resolve the problem, as I have been doing for the last two weeks and before that, by attempting to establish the foundation for a negotiated settlement which will primarily serve the students but will also serve the teachers and the college system beneficially. I hope the honourable member will understand that we are using all the means available to us at this point.

At this point, I cannot verify his figure. I believe it may be somewhere in the ball park, but I cannot be sure it is. It is being examined now.

Mr. Peterson: The minister has had time to verify it. She was not aware of it yesterday. Whether she knows it or not, a committee has been formed in her ministry to determine what to do with that money. Was the minister aware of that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that the question?

Mr. Peterson: That is the information.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that the question?

Mr. Peterson: No, but there is no point in asking the minister questions any more because she does not know anything to be able to supply information.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If that is the question, sit down and I will answer it.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: The opposition is harassing me, Mr. Speaker.

Why would the minister not look at creative approaches with that money? That was my question yesterday and it is my question again today. Surely both sides are looking for some

sign of goodwill from the minister. Granted, she does not have much goodwill at the moment, but she might be able to buy it with \$13 million or \$14 million. Why would she not take that approach? Why would she not move quickly, this weekend, rather than letting this thing drag out until Monday, Tuesday or for another week or six weeks?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, I do not go around buying goodwill. I guess the member should be informed that about 10 days ago we formed a task force. The task force is examining all aspects of the strike, not just those that were mentioned by the member as a result of the in-depth examination by his overzealous and under—I will not say it—research department.

At any rate, all aspects are being examined, and that is not the only one. The member, of course, does not believe I know what goes on in the ministry. I have to tell him I know almost everything that goes on in the ministry, including the kinds of things he does to try to determine what he can dig up to try to embarrass the government on a daily basis.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the minister says she is not interested in buying goodwill; I say to the minister that major policy changes of that kind should really be announced in ministerial statements rather than in a throwaway answer to the leader of the Liberal Party.

The minister says she is very acutely involved in the negotiations and is now trying to establish a basis for a negotiated settlement. We also have the statement of October 12 from the Council of Regents document that says the minister stated her total commitment to the management position. Has she changed in that total commitment in any way?

In this leading role she now says she is playing in the negotiations, is she indicating on behalf of management—since she is clearly acting on behalf of management—that she is now prepared to discuss with the college teachers the whole question of work load as it relates to the quality of education? Is that now on the negotiating table? Is she prepared to negotiate that since she has now become a spokesman for management in this dispute?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, on the epitaph on the tombstone of the leader of the third party would be, "Here lies the great distorter."

Mr. McClellan: Is that parliamentary?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that unparliamentary? Good heavens.

Mr. Rae: Is "distortion" all right?

Mr. Speaker: She did not say that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The role I have attempted to play was to try, through examination of the issues which were under consideration or should have been under consideration in the negotiations, to find the basis for a settlement that would ensure the ongoing validity of the educational program for the students in the college system.

There cannot be any doubt that I supported the second position expressed by the management negotiating team that was presented to the trade union before the strike vote was taken and refused by the trade union as an offer, which suggested that there was a means of dealing with excessive work load on a reasonable basis.

That, it seemed to me, was addressing the issue of work load, which the trade union has suggested it will only discuss at the negotiating table. In fact, the union's prerequisite for discussion or negotiation is that the management team consider only the mechanism for dealing with work load proposed by the trade union.

It has been my understanding that even the New Democratic Party has supported the concept that negotiations should take place freely without preconditions being set upon those negotiations. I would suggest that the honourable leaders of the two opposite parties would do the students a very great deal of good if they would persuade the trade union to begin negotiations of the other aspects of the agreement and suggest that it not set preconditions for those negotiations. They would really be serving their constituents and all the young people very well if they would do so.

I have attempted to persuade the trade union that this would be useful. I admit I have been unsuccessful in doing that. Would the members opposite please use their good offices to persuade the trade union to do just that?

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, in the minister's last answer to the Leader of the Opposition, she indicated she was considering and pursuing all means to resolve this very worrisome disruption in the community colleges of Ontario. Would the minister stand in her place, and specify and particularize what "all means" refers to?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the fertile imagination of the member opposite would have given him good ideas about what "all means to resolve the strike" would be. I am sure I do not have to spell them out for him.

I am still looking for a way to ensure a negotiated settlement. I think one of the ways to

ensure a negotiated settlement is to open the negotiations precisely and freely so that both sides can discuss all aspects of the negotiations, not just one of the aspects.

One of the routes might be that the trade union might now offer to the members the position which was placed before it and which was finally accepted one week after the strike vote as an offer by the union negotiating committee. Perhaps that might be offered as a position and voted upon by the membership. Perhaps that might bring a solution to this dispute.

Mr. Rae: I suppose one could say that on the minister's grave will be written as an epitaph the words, "Here lies a doctor and an honest person," to which some people might say they thought it was against the law to bury two people in the same grave.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: You are never going to win as a stand-up comic. That is not even worth a touché.

Mr. McClellan: You can dish it out, but you cannot take it.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please.

FAMINE RELIEF

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs and it concerns an event which is grabbing hold of the conscience of the world. I am referring, of course, to the tragic events that are taking place not only in Ethiopia, but indeed all across Africa. A drought is affecting thousands of young people every day. It is estimated that 7,000 men, women and children are dying every day in Ethiopia.

At previous times, the government of Ontario has responded, and there is an urgent need today for it to respond on behalf of all the people of Ontario. I would like to ask the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs whether it is his intention to announce today or as soon as possible the intention of the government of Ontario to provide funds for those groups that are attempting to provide food aid to the victims of famine in Ethiopia and in other parts of Africa.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, in answer to my friend's question, this is certainly a very serious situation. I might inform him that I was asked by the Honourable Joe Clark, Secretary of State for External Affairs for this country, to accompany him on his trip to Ethiopia this weekend, but for a variety of personal reasons and some medical reasons, it was not possible for me to accompany him on that very important trip.

10:30 a.m.

As the member knows, he is taking along the Honourable David MacDonald, who has been appointed emergency co-ordinator for famine relief to African countries. I have made up my mind that I will have a meeting with the Honourable Mr. MacDonald when he returns to talk over what the people of Ontario might do to assist in the total Canadian effort.

There is no question that we all have a resolve to provide whatever help is necessary. The question is how best we can help. In that context, I think it should be remembered that in the last four years the people of Ontario alone have contributed more than \$1 million to various emergency relief endeavours.

I was a little shocked to read the comments of a Mr. Bill Newell of World Vision Canada, who made what I think were some very unnecessary and uninformed comments about the attitude of this government. This government above all governments has always seen its responsibilities. On behalf of the taxpayers of this province, it has fulfilled that responsibility in emergency situations wherever they might occur in the world.

Mr. Rae: I am delighted the minister is going to be meeting with Mr. MacDonald. However, is it the intention of this government to provide financial aid, not simply on a one-shot basis but on a permanent basis, to buy up the cereal grains that are so necessary? Does it intend to involve itself with the government of Canada and nongovernmental organizations in dealing with this enormous problem of drought and famine? This problem is not going to disappear quickly; it is going to be there for some time.

Does the minister not think it is time Ontario developed in a very major way a program that will address this issue? It should not simply be on a one-shot basis, but on a permanent basis so we can play the kind of role I am sure all members of the House would want us to play in solving this enormous human tragedy.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Certainly we are all dedicated to finding the best way we can to solve this dire human tragedy. However, until we have some indication of what the total Canadian effort will be and where we fit into that, I think it is rather difficult for me to give any more specific answer.

It must also be remembered that we are part of Canada. Matters of this nature are first and foremost handled by the government of Canada on behalf of all the people who live in Canada, including the nine million who live in Ontario. There was a refugee problem in 1980 concerning

Ethiopia. The government of Canada allotted \$4 million and we were asked to make some contribution. The decision at that time was no. The \$4 million was an all-Canada contribution and that was all that was necessary because 40 per cent of the sum came from the nine million people in Ontario. Therefore, they were helping.

If the member for York South understands the realities of the Canadian system, he knows we work together to solve these problems. Until I talk to David MacDonald when he returns, I do not know what the request might be. We have had no specific requests as we have in other instances, particularly when disasters have occurred. When Mr. MacDonald returns and I have had a chance to talk to him, I will then be able to report to the House on what may or may not be the positions Ontario can take.

However, there should be no misunderstanding that we feel very deeply about the situation in Ethiopia. We will do what is right on behalf of the people of this province.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, surely the minister does not have pretensions that he can solve this problem, as he indicated in his answer. Obviously, it is better in the circumstances to light one candle than it is to curse the darkness.

In the circumstances, does the minister feel it would be constructive at this time to give some sort of signal to Mr. Clark and Mr. MacDonald as they leave that he is willing to participate in some kind of assistance? I remind the minister there are many other international tragedies to which this government has responded if there was a constituency in that province. Just because there is not a major constituency in this province does not mean it does not require a response now.

I am asking the minister now, as a sign of good faith not only to his federal brethren but to other provinces and other people across the world, to say, "Mr. Clark, take the message to Ethiopia that we in Ontario are willing to help."

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, my friend is behind by a couple of days. I think the very fact that they asked us to accompany them on this particular mission indicates they understand we are already committed to this kind of co-operation. In fact, the people of Ontario, for whom we speak and for whom the federal government speaks, are committed to helping in Ethiopia.

The question is, what is the best way for that help to be provided? Until we get a first-hand report, let us do it in an intelligent way. My friend may not have been through a number of these things; in this ministry, I have, and I can tell

him it is best to get all the information in and find out exactly what the particular need is and how we can help. In that way, we can help in the best way.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the minister would at least agree with this. One of the features of the minister's answer that concerns me—

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I wonder if I could have the minister's attention. I know he is concerned with responding to the heckles from the other side.

I am a little concerned when the minister says it is, in a sense, the responsibility of the government of Canada. I beg to differ in the sense that this surely is the responsibility of all of us, of the people of Canada and of the people of Ontario, through charitable organizations, through nongovernmental organizations and through organizations of all kinds that have been struck by this terrible tragedy and want to respond.

People are going to respond as individuals, and that is great. All we are asking on this side is that the minister remember that we want our government to respond in the name of the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Is the minister aware of the very strong feeling in the province that, constitutional niceties aside, it is extremely important for the government of Ontario to respond on behalf of all those people who want to see a government with a heart, a government with compassion and a government that is more concerned to help to solve a problem than to deal with the constitutional niceties of the situation?

Hon. Mr. Wells: If the member is looking for a government with a heart and compassion, he will find it over here, and this government can match and substantiate that statement in any way he might wish. All I am saying to my friend is that I am sure that, being a very reasonable and intelligent person, he would like this to be done in a proper and intelligent way.

I learned yesterday at noon that David MacDonald had been appointed, and he has obviously been appointed to try to focus on this particular problem and find out how all the people of Canada can help. When we hear from him after his visit, I will be happy to tell the House exactly how this government will mesh its programs with those of the federal government to meet this very tragic situation.

LAYOFFS AT SIMPSONS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my second question is to another representative of the government with a big heart, the Minister of Labour.

The minister will be aware that today is the last day on the job for more than 1,600 workers at the Simpsons company. He will be aware that many of those workers have worked for 25 and 30 years and were simply put out the door by the company and told that if they wanted to reapply for part-time work they could.

Does the minister agree with the president of Simpsons Ltd., who, in the *Globe and Mail* on October 6, 1984, described those employees as "sacrificial lambs, if you wish"? Does he now regret the statement he made in July, when the layoffs were announced, when he said that while it is tragic, it is not as tragic as other layoffs because many of the workers are what he described as second-wage earners?

Does he not think it is time his views came well into the 20th century and that he showed some real heart with respect to what is happening to these workers?

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, let us deal with the matter of my comment to the media. I am really pleased to have the opportunity to clarify this.

At the time, I was approached by approximately 20 members of the media outside the cabinet office in a typical scrum. I was trying to explain the circumstances. I was trying to express the devastated feeling I had about the circumstances. Nineteen out of the 20 reporters at that time accepted my remarks in the context intended.

One reporter, who is a very competent and capable one, quoted me correctly, there is no doubt about that, but did not quote the whole context of what I said or convey the intention of my remarks. Being a very competent reporter, she in turn called the respective critics. That was like delivering a slow lob. With respect, they hit it out of the ball park. I commend them for it. It was a wonderful opportunity.

The point I was trying to make then, and I am making now, is that I was disturbed and devastated by the circumstances at that time. I still am. The toughest part of being Minister of Labour and representing the government, in the two and a half years I have been here, is having to deal with plant closures and layoffs. It is a tragic circumstance and I will never get used to it. One does what one can, but it is a helpless feeling.

The only thing on the bright side is that the numbers of closures and people affected have been decreasing. In the first eight months of this year they were down by 32 per cent from the same period last year. Last year, in turn, they were down by 66 per cent from the year before. I do not care whether there is only one layoff or one plant closure; it is still a tragedy. I appreciate the opportunity to express those feelings, which are just as sincere as I can possibly make them.

Mr. Rae: The minister has to recognize the fact that he is the minister and that he has some responsibilities in this matter. Sixteen hundred workers have been laid off and the company has turned around and said, "You are going to lose your benefits, your insurance coverage and the fringe benefits you had before, but we are going to offer 800 of the 1,600 the golden opportunity to come back and work part-time." It is not lack of work that has caused the layoff. It is a systematic policy on the part of that company to fire full-time workers who have 25 and 30 years' seniority. Then the company turns around and says, "We are going to let you work for a few hours a week for a few bucks a week if you want to."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: That is an insult to every person who has ever worked at Simpsons. It is a grotesque insult. The minister could do something about it if the government had employment standards laws worthy of the name. He can do something about that. It does not have to be a tragedy. My question is, when is he going to do something rather than come in here and cry his crocodile tears?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am trying to keep my composure. I have never been more upset than by the comment just made by the member opposite about crocodile tears. I never would have expected such a low type of comment from that gentleman. My opinion of that gentleman has gone down.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Essex South.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker—

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am sorry. I did not intend to sit down. I meant to answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: You did sit down, and I have recognized the member for Essex South.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, the minister seems somewhat perplexed about what to do

when we have large layoffs and complete or partial plant closures. I want to remind him that it was his government, immediately after the 1981 election, that abolished the select committee on plant shutdowns and employee adjustment and prevented all members of the Legislature from having input into such actions and from helping him solve these problems.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Mancini: I want to know from the minister whether he has had communications with the employer of these 1,600 people, what type of communications he has had and what type of responses he has had from the employer? What type of representation has he made to the employer on behalf of these many hundreds of workers who have had many years of seniority and now find themselves out on the street?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, we have had several meetings with these people. I attended two of them personally. There have been others with officials of our ministry. I personally have brought up individual cases with the Simpsons executives that have been brought to my attention. I followed up on those personally. I wrote back to each and every person—anyone who brought concerns to my attention—on a personal basis, not a form letter or anything like that.

I did feel at one point that we had convinced Simpsons to provide benefits on a prorated basis to the part-time workers. At the time, I was very encouraged by that. I thought we had made a major breakthrough. I find that has not come to pass because—and I am not being critical of the system, do not get me wrong—there have been organizing attempts in various of these Simpsons stores. That was to be expected. It was as obvious as a hot knife through butter that this was going to happen after the action that was taken by Simpsons. Certainly there were going to be organizing attempts.

Because of those organizing attempts, Simpsons has changed its position a bit as far as benefits for part-time workers are concerned at this time. They are waiting to see what bargaining positions they will be taking. It is not a dead issue, but on the other hand it is not encouraging as it was earlier this year when I thought we had a bit of a breakthrough.

Mr. Rae: What the minister is saying is that the company is punishing people for trying to organize a trade union to protect themselves. That is nothing short of a disgrace.

Writing individual letters, which we have all had to do, or feeling sorry about the situation,

which I am sure the minister does, is not what is at stake. What is at stake here is improving the Employment Standards Act so that people cannot be put out the door and then asked to come back part-time.

Why not bring in amendments to the Employment Standards Act that would protect the rights of full-time workers who do not happen to have a union, in terms of a grievance procedure and in terms of their seniority rights? Why not change the Employment Standards Act to protect part-time workers in terms of their pensions and their rights to benefits and protection?

Why not recognize in the Employment Standards Act that the most important investment a working person has is his or her job? That investment is being treated with contempt by many employers today and simply is not being protected by the laws of this province.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Let me remind the member that the Employment Standards Act in this province is miles ahead of that of any other jurisdiction in North America; he knows it is miles ahead. That does not mean it cannot be improved, but let us not leave the impression that the Employment Standards Act in Ontario is deficient to that of any other place on the North American continent.

I want to read a couple of sentences from a letter I wrote in response to the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), who I find is usually quick off the mark as far as issues of this nature are concerned. I said to him:

"Some argue, as you do, that this trend"—we are talking about increasing part-time employment—"leads to an erosion of the organized labour movement and downward pressure on wages. Others suggest that part-time work and job sharing meet the needs of both employers and employees. Aside from the merits of these contending positions, I agree that we must give adequate protection to part-time workers in terms of benefits and conditions of employment. This is a topic which is receiving high-priority attention by my ministry."

Also, in that same light, is the fact that the Wallace report came out recently from the federal government, and we are taking a very close look at that at the present time. I also have to remind the member that this government moved towards benefits for part-time workers in the throne speech. There is certainly an example being set to the private sector by this government.

10:50 a.m.

OVERCROWDING AT DETENTION CENTRES

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Correctional Services. I am concerned about the state of overcrowding in the ministry's detention centres and the lack of initiative by the minister to alleviate those conditions.

For example, the Toronto Don jail, the Metropolitan Toronto West Detention Centre and the Metropolitan Toronto East Detention Centre are operating at double their designed capacity. Further, 72 per cent of the people detained in the Don jail in March 1984 were on remand, waiting for trial, as was 64 per cent of the population held at the Metro east centre and 57 per cent of the population held at the Metro west centre.

In the light of the fact that the minister devotes almost 80 per cent of his ministry's budget to supporting and maintaining jails and prisons, and very little to alternatives, will he follow through today on his verbal commitment to alternatives to prison by directing the energies and resources of his ministry towards creating and supporting alternative programs for both remanded and sentenced offenders?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, that question sounds like a précis of the honourable member's recent one-man commission report on overcrowding in the Ontario correctional system.

If the member had taken the time to do a lengthy study of the crowded conditions in our facilities, he would have realized this ministry has been actively engaged in bringing a number of new bed spaces on stream. He mentioned the Metropolitan Toronto West Detention Centre. My colleague the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe) and I were there just the other day at a ground-breaking ceremony for a 192-bed addition that will help to alleviate overcrowding in the Toronto-Hamilton corridor.

In the past year we also brought on stream some 250 new bed spaces in the Toronto area, 150 at Mimico Correctional Centre, 60 at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre and a 40-bed addition in dormitory style at the Guelph Correctional Centre. This ministry has been actively engaged in bringing new beds on stream.

We have been actively engaged in finding alternatives to incarceration. The member knows full well that over the past 10 years we went from a budget of \$347,000 to \$12 million this year for alternatives to incarceration. We have a wide spectrum of programs in the community. If the member had taken time to research that carefully,

he would have known we are doing something in that area and we are continuing to examine new alternatives to incarceration.

Mr. McKessock: The minister says he is spending time and money on alternatives. He also states that on Wednesday he broke the sod for a \$4.3-million expansion at the Metro west detention centre. What concerns me about this expansion is that it doubles the space for women at that centre at a time when there is no clear need for more cells for females. However, there is a need for more community alternatives and community resource centres for women.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. McKessock: The government press release announcing the expansion at the Metropolitan Toronto West Detention Centre states, "The addition will accommodate female inmates on remand, awaiting trial."

When is the minister going to start spending more money for alternatives to jail? When is he going to meet with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) to see what can be done to cut down on these remands, instead of building more jails to house them because of the slowness and inefficiency of the court system?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: The member mentioned the high remand counts in some of our facilities. I want to make it clear that this ministry and this minister do not control remand counts. When the police arrive at the doors of our institutions with proper warrants of committal, we have to accommodate people regardless of whether there is double-bunking or whatever. We are not responsible for the remand counts; that is the jurisdiction of the Attorney General.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Second, even though the addition at Metro west is being built to house 192 women, the member ignored the information he was given by our research department which said our counts have been down in the last 12-month period. This ministry is flexible. We will continue to assess our needs—and we have needs for bed spaces, there is no question about that. Whether we use them for women, young offenders or male offenders, those bed spaces will be used.

CONTRACT FOR RAILS

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Minister of Labour that I am indeed concerned about jobs in Sault Ste. Marie and area, as he knows. Jobs at Algoma Steel affect

my riding almost as much as they do his own. Obviously the Nova Scotia provincial election also affects our area.

The Sault Ste. Marie area is suffering with one of the highest unemployment rates in Canada. Legislation recently passed in the United States threatens an even greater loss of jobs in our area. Since historically Algoma Steel has supplied about 50 per cent of Canadian National's rail steel needs with a very high-quality product, can the minister tell us specifically what discussions he has had with his colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) at the provincial level? What specific representations has the provincial government made to the federal government for the maintenance of the historic market share for CN rail steel in this country?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I was incorrect when I suggested the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) and the Leader of the Opposition were really unconcerned about the jobs in Sault Ste. Marie. I know that is not the case. In fact, they are much more concerned than the predecessor of the Leader of the Opposition, who came to Sault Ste. Marie during an election and was quoted in the media afterwards as saying in a cab on the way to the airport that he could not wait to get out of our city and did not want to ever have to come back to it again.

Mr. Kerrio: Now the minister is making hay. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: As I said in answer to the last supplementary, I was not aware of the circumstances. To be quite honest about it, it was the member for Algoma who saw the newspaper article and brought it to my attention late yesterday afternoon when we were here for the private members' votes at approximately 5:50 p.m.

I have not had an opportunity since then to speak with the Minister of Industry and Trade. I have had an opportunity to speak with the federal Minister of International Trade. As I reported earlier, a meeting has been arranged between him and the appropriate officials.

Mr. Wildman: Is the minister aware that the Honourable Elmer MacKay is quoted in the Sysco news release to the effect that he believes it is in the national interest that both CN and Canadian Pacific purchase rails from both Sysco and Algoma? Does the minister agree with that position? What is the position of the Ontario government with regard to Mr. MacKay's

statement? Are this government and this minister prepared to arrange a meeting with the responsible federal ministers to present Ontario and Sault Ste. Marie's case? If the minister is so prepared, I will be willing to accompany him.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Now, there is a real offer.

Mr. Foulds: Darned right it is. It will stiffen the minister's backbone.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: It is a constructive offer.

Mr. Foulds: I take it back.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: As I said earlier, I am going to do everything in my power to take whatever steps are appropriate. I do not want to make any hasty observations or announcements here today, jump on a bandwagon and that sort of thing. I want to take a responsible look at this situation, and we will do everything within our power; that goes without saying.

11 a.m.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, with what has happened to Sault Ste. Marie, what guarantee is there that Hamilton will not be next on the hit list of the federal Progressive Conservative Party government in Ottawa? What action will the minister take to ensure that contracts will not be disappearing from Hamilton now to go to some other province that seems to have more prominence in the priorities of the federal Progressive Conservative government?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I think my previous answers would be adequate. Nothing has changed or is any different from what I said earlier. We will do whatever is necessary.

WINTARIO CAPITAL GRANTS

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. It concerns capital grants to small communities, such as the town of Haldimand, that have made requests for Wintario grants as far back as 1982 and 1983. They would like to know why they are not receiving the money. They also want to know what plans the minister has for making money available for small requests such as those for baseball park lights and improvements to parks and arenas.

They are concerned because Wintario is taking money out of communities and they cannot bring their ticket sales up because of the competition. They would like to have an answer as to why the money is not available to the community.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I do not know specifically what case the honourable member is referring to. He mentioned small towns such as Haldimand. I am under the definite impression

that if they had made an application for a Wintario capital grant as early as 1982, if the money has not been paid by now it certainly will be in the very near future.

I suspect it has been paid. The member shakes his head. I am prepared to look into that case, but any application as far back as 1982 would surely have been paid or, if not, will be paid in the next short while.

Mr. G. I. Miller: The people in Port Dover are planning and collecting money for a new arena. The criteria are not very clear on what portion the province will pick up through the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation. Can the minister indicate what portion will be provided through his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As I indicated to the member and to the delegation from Port Dover, the arena would seem to be eligible when the new Wintario capital program is initiated. I hope it will be initiated in the not-too-distant future. It would seem to me that arena would certainly be eligible if the criteria are essentially the same as they have been over the last seven or eight years.

I am aware of the condition of the arena in Port Dover; I know the people there badly need a new one. When the new Wintario capital program starts, I assume we will be there to help the people of Port Dover build a wonderful, fantastic new arena.

DE HAVILLAND AIRCRAFT OF CANADA

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. Is the Treasurer willing to put Ontario's public interest ahead of ideology? Is he conscious that the last time the federal Conservative government abandoned the aerospace industry it led to the cancellation of the Avro Arrow? Now that the federal government has put de Havilland on its hit list and auction block, will the Treasurer, who is responsible for the economy of this province, take it upon himself to keep de Havilland in the public domain to maintain jobs?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I think the important thing is that we are committed to doing everything possible to maintain the jobs at de Havilland. I think it is quite another step to take to say the only way that can be done is through public ownership. I have spoken to the ministers of the federal government; the Premier (Mr. Davis) has spoken to the Prime Minister. The issue of de Havilland has been raised by us many times and they are well aware of our interest.

They have indicated to us unfailingly that it is their desire to ensure that de Havilland continues to be economically viable and productive and employing a lot of people. It is their view that it is appropriate to look and see if a private sector option is available. That is one I do not think we can quarrel with so long as we ensure that economic viability is the guiding light. I believe we will find out those jobs can be maintained in the private sector.

Mr. Foulds: Whether the industry is maintained in the public or the private sector, because the aerospace industry worldwide is heavily subsidized by the governments where the industries exist, the minister knows there will be some public participation, whether it is in public ownership or private ownership.

Is he aware that his colleague the Minister of Industry and Trade is on record as saying he considers de Havilland to be an exception to his usual right-wing views, because it is important that Canada maintains a presence in the aerospace industry, and he considered proposing that the Ontario government buy it when it was previously put on the chopping block?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Frankly, no, I was not aware of that view. I am glad the member raised it and brought it to my attention. There is, with respect, nothing inconsistent in the views of the Minister of Industry and Trade, myself and the federal ministry. The common thread for all is to ensure that de Havilland survives and thrives and gives employment.

The particular mix of public, public-private or private is something the federal government is looking at. I think my colleague is absolutely right in saying that, if necessary, public ownership ought to be maintained, if not necessary, private ownership ought to be entertained and, if appropriate, a mixture. I do not see anything inconsistent in that.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, does the Treasurer intend to advise the Premier to establish some sort of a cabinet committee to protect Ontario from the depredations of the fulfilment of the Conservative federal election promises, or is he just going to sit back and grit his teeth as, day after day, the implementation of these promises has a continuing bad effect on the province?

For example, next week we are going to be treated to world price for oil, something this government has fought against for a long time. Surely the Treasurer is in a position to see that the effects of this on employment in Ontario are going to be removed. Why stand there and allow these things to happen when he can see them

coming? Is he not in a position to assist the province in this regard? Is he going to take some formal steps through a cabinet committee to see his views are known in Ottawa?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, let me say that, quite apart from the long-standing and very effective cabinet committee on federal-provincial relations, which does exist and is effective—

Mr. Nixon: I think they have a staff.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They have a staff, they are very good, and leading ministers are on it.

Second, all of us have spoken many times to our federal counterparts in the old government and in the new government.

Third, and more constructively, before question period this morning I had the honour of signing the economic and regional development agreement, ERDA, with the Honourable Sinclair Stevens. That is an agreement to replace the general development agreements that expired on March 31, 1984. Those agreements have been discussed in this House many times. We told the old government we wanted to be ready to have an agreement to kick in on April 1, 1984.

The former government refused to have serious discussions with us and wanted only to enter into an overall umbrella agreement without any specific agreements following. It also insisted upon direct delivery as opposed to being serious about co-operation. Since September 4, we have been able to conclude negotiations on the overall agreement and to reach agreement on a tourism agreement, which the member's tourism critic will tell him has been talked about since as long ago as when I was Minister of Industry and Tourism. A tourism agreement has now been arrived at with the new federal government, as has a forestry agreement for forest management.

Those are very major steps forward and will be providing a great number of jobs and employment opportunities, particularly in northern and eastern Ontario. It is due specifically, as the clear evidence indicates, to the degree of co-operation being lent by both levels of government, something that was totally absent until September 4.

11:10 a.m.

CRAIGWOOD YOUTH SERVICES

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, this question is to the Minister of Community and Social Services. Given that Craigwood Youth Services in Ailsa Craig, Ontario, has now changed from a youth services facility to a facility to accommo-

date young offenders, which happened on November 1, and given that this new function is not compatible with meeting the needs of children with special needs, how can the minister allow some of these special needs children to remain in the centre with young offenders?

Further, a parent in my community who has a son at Craigwood has had it suggested to her that she apply to Family and Children's Services of London and Middlesex County to have her son made a ward of the court so that funds can be made available for placement in another centre. I find that totally appalling.

Is the minister aware of this situation? How can he allow such needy children to fall between the gaps in our social network, to use the words of one of the co-ordinators at Craigwood?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I do not know anything about it. I will look into it. The case is probably overstated, as usual, but I will look into it.

Mr. Van Horne: How can one overstate a case such as that? That is a stupid remark.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If he had given me the details, I could have given him an answer.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Mancini moved, seconded by Mr. McGuigan, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside in order to debate a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the actions of the Minister of Natural Resources in his attempts to enforce certain federal and provincial fishing regulations in deliberate contravention of the declared law of this province, actions which resulted in the confiscation of fishermen's property and which have led to a great uncertainty regarding the current state of the relevant rules and regulations governing fishing among commercial fishermen.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I believe you have already received notice of this intention.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: It sounds like a real emergency.

Mr. Speaker: I want to advise all honourable members that I have indeed received notice and it was received within the proper time limits as set out in the standing orders. I am prepared to listen for up to five minutes as to why this member and other members may wish to set aside the ordinary business of the House.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, the member for Durham West (Mr. Ashe) does not think this is a real emergency, but perhaps he should listen.

Under the rules of this Legislature, I have five minutes to prove that we have an emergency situation in the province-wide commercial fishing industry. Before I can prove that point, I must take a moment or two to put into perspective the historical details of this matter.

The present Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) and three of his immediate predecessors have at one time or another discussed the matter of implementing quotas on the commercial fishing industry.

I must say at this time that the present minister has been, in my view and in the view of many fishermen, the most accessible and the most considerate of the three most recent ministers. I and many fishermen who have dealt with the minister appreciate his easy accessibility and the fact that he had time to listen to our proposals.

What confounds me no end is that, after a good number of meetings and a great deal of discussion, the minister moved ahead in a rather unilateral fashion to implement the quotas. This in itself was a shock to the industry, but what was even far worse was the manner of the implementation.

Late this winter, just prior to the commencement of the fishing season, we received a proclamation from Queen's Park, a proclamation from the minister stating that quotas would be effective immediately, meaning the commencement of the fishing season.

I want to reiterate that this was not done a year in advance of the fishing season, six months in advance of the fishing season or even three months in advance of the season; it was done literally days before the commencement of the fishing season. Fishermen, processors and everyone involved in the fishing industry had no time to plan or reorganize their plans in view of the shortness of notice given them by the minister.

I and many people in the industry pointed out to the minister how grievous the situation was. We begged and pleaded with him for more time. Either on his own volition or on instructions from cabinet, the minister moved forward with his plan.

When the quotas were given out to fishermen, many of them found numerical errors that had been made by the ministry. When the ministry officials were approached with this fact, they said their hands were tied and the matter had to go before the quota hearing boards. This is all fine and well, of course, but it took the ministry more than two months to activate these quota hearing boards properly, and the fishermen who had been unfairly assessed were left to languish in the

mistakes made by the ministry. So if the quota allocation could be caught in two days and the fisherman had to wait two months for a hearing in order to appeal, that was his own tough luck as far as the ministry was concerned.

It was this frustration and the fact that many fishermen and fish processors had invested literally their total resources in the industry that finally led a small group of fishermen to take the Minister of Natural Resources to court.

At the Supreme Court of Ontario, Justice Smith ruled that the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources had no constitutional right to implement quotas. This sent shock waves not only through the Ministry of Natural Resources but also through the commercial fishing industry itself and started the process of collapsing prices that continues to this day.

A few days later at the Court of Appeal, Justice Houlden informed the Minister of Natural Resources and his representative, a lawyer from a Ministry of the Attorney General, that he could not grant the ministry a stay and that the quotas therefore continued to be invalid.

In a craftily worded press release issued by the office of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) with the approval of the Minister of Natural Resources, the government tried to fool the public about the outcome of that court hearing, which was held not in court but in the judge's chambers.

It was not mentioned in this press release that the minister had failed to obtain a stay. As a matter of fact, a stay was not available and, further, the judge had ordered the ministry to pick up all costs. The press release emphasized the fact that the minister would press charges against anyone overfishing his quota and that his licence would be suspended, thereby leaving the impression that Justice Houlden had overturned an earlier decision.

I see my time is running out, but I do want to point out one incident that took place in the port of Wheatley. The minister had sent his officers to Wheatley to confiscate a tugboat. The officers appeared, guns in their holsters like the Lone Ranger and Tonto, not only to confiscate these boats but also, in my view, to put fear into the hearts of the fishermen. That in itself was also found to be illegal by the courts.

Mr. Speaker: Time, please.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I need more time and I need your assistance to have this matter debated adequately.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my party I want to indicate our support for the motion for an emergency debate presented by the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini).

The recent decision by the court has led to considerable confusion about the ministry's approach to the modernization of the fishing industry in this province. It has, in the minister's words, declared individual quotas technically invalid. As the minister stated in the House, he has gone to court to request a stay of the judgement, and the ministry is continuing to operate as if the quotas should be obeyed.

This is an emergency because we are facing chaos today in the commercial fishing industry in this province. The rules and regulations brought in by the ministry after some meetings with the fishing industry across the province did not, in my view, really reflect the desires and the concerns of the commercial fishing industry.

The member for Essex South indicated that he thought the Minister of Natural Resources has been accessible on this matter. I must disagree with that. In my view, although meetings were held with members of his staff, the minister himself has been most hesitant about dealing with this issue in the way it should be with the commercial fishing industry.

As a matter of fact, he has specifically refused to meet with the Eastern Lake Superior Commercial Fishermen's Association. I wrote to him on May 22 pointing out the dangers of the quota system with regard to the commercial fishing industry and requesting a meeting. The minister has not even deigned to answer my letter although we have made repeated telephone calls to his office about the issue.

The problem with the quotas seems to me to be that they were calculated on the basis of individual catches, the best three catches over the last seven years, rather than on the basis of any scientific information about the actual numbers of fish of different species in the lakes. As a matter of fact, the ministry itself will admit it does not know how many fish there are in the lakes.

11:20 a.m.

It does not make sense to be imposing individual quotas on the basis of sales in the market over the past number of years. In eastern Lake Superior, the area about which I know the most in this regard, the Oshawong Lake trout allocation was calculated by providing each licensee with a base of 200 pounds, with the balance based on past performance, that is, the best three catches over the past seven years. I am

informed the total inshore lake trout allocation is 49,900 pounds, but we have been unable to figure out how this figure was arrived at and how the individual quotas for this total catch were determined.

We are in favour of the rehabilitation of the inshore lake trout stocks in eastern Lake Superior, but I am concerned about the viability of the inshore commercial fishing industry in that area. For example, one commercial fisherman in my area has been allocated an individual whitefish quota of 1,405 pounds this year. His other quotas are 763 pounds for lake trout, 1,266 pounds for herring, 100 pounds for yellow perch and 300 pounds for round whitefish. Frankly, this fisherman could fish out these quotas in two or three weeks to one month and he would be out of work for the rest of the year.

This whole industry needs to be discussed. We have to discuss the modernization program. I regret very much that the Minister of Natural Resources is not present in the House to deal with this issue, but this assembly should be prepared to deal with what threatens the livelihood of the commercial fishing industry in Ontario and the respect of commercial fishermen for the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Commercial fishermen are being put out of business in my area. They face complete loss of their livelihood. The ministry has not been prepared to respond in any way to requests for compensation, whether compensation for loss of business or help to purchase licences or equipment.

We face a serious crisis in the commercial fishing industry in this province and I support the member for Essex South in this regard. It is an issue that needs to be debated and discussed by the members of this assembly. For that reason, Mr. Speaker, I support the resolution and hope you will find the debate should proceed.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Natural Resources could not be here today and I am going to respond on his behalf.

The Ministry of Natural Resources has been working closely with commercial fishermen since the 1970s to modernize their industry. An integral part of this modernization involves the imposition of individual quotas. The challenge brought against individual quotas by three applicants from the commercial fishing industry resulted in a ruling by Mr. Justice Smith that on the basis of the constitutional issues of subdelegation and interdelegation, the federal government has not effectively delegated authority to the province to impose individual quotas.

I would remind honourable members that in an earlier case, referred to as the Shoal Lake case, similar matters were considered in the Supreme Court of Ontario, which found the Minister of Natural Resources did have the authority to impose individual quotas.

Since the release of the reasons for the decision of Mr. Justice Smith, the Minister of Natural Resources and others in his ministry have met with or otherwise had representations from the commercial fishing industry, the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters and the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association.

I emphasize that each of these groups has urged that the province do its utmost to control the harvest of fish within the limits imposed by individual quotas. After the judicial decision was made public, the province immediately sought leave to appeal the decision, sought redress of the authority for individual quotas with the federal government and sought clarification of its ability to enforce individual quotas pending the application for leave to appeal.

In the interim the court has ruled that the Ministry of Natural Resources may not enforce individual quotas. Leave is being sought to appeal this ruling.

It is not the attempts of the Ministry of Natural Resources to enforce reasonable limits on fish harvest that have caused uncertainty and confusion in the industry. Regrettably, the action brought by the three individuals has clouded the authority of the minister to regulate the fishery, thus causing concern in the industry.

In fact, during the past four days, the Ministry of Natural Resources has received numerous telegrams and telexes representing a very large cross-section of the fishing industry, urging the minister to find a way to enforce individual quotas. As I mentioned earlier, the Minister of Natural Resources has also sought leave to appeal Mr. Justice Smith's decision and has been seeking some redress of the issue of authority for individual quotas with the federal government.

Today I am pleased to advise all members of the House that on application yesterday not only was leave to appeal Mr. Justice Smith's decision granted, but the hearing was expedited and will be heard before the Ontario Court of Appeal on November 15.

Recognizing that effective solutions to the concerns of the fishermen are being sought by the Minister of Natural Resources and that resolution of the matter before the courts is proceeding quickly, I cannot agree that the matter is an emergency at this time.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened carefully to the arguments put forth by the three members and have found the matter to be most interesting.

I find the motion to be in order. Therefore, the question to be decided is, shall the debate proceed?

11:47 a.m.

The House divided on whether the debate should proceed, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Bradley, Bryden, Charlton, Conway, Elston, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Kerrio, Mancini, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Miller, G. I., Newman, Nixon, Reed, Riddell, Ruprecht, Ruston, Stokes, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Barlow, Birch, Dean, Eves, Fish, Gregory, Grossman, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kennedy, Leluk, McCaffrey, McLean, McNeil, Mitchell, Pollock, Ramsay, Rotenberg, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Stevenson, K. R., Treleaven, Walker, Wells, Williams, Yakabuski.

Ayes 27; nays 31.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND ECONOMICS (continued)

On vote 1001, ministry administration program; item 1, main office:

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, these estimates are now in their third round with perhaps only one more round to go, plus a reference to the standing committee on procedural affairs, plus a no-confidence debate.

This seems to be interfering with the personal agenda of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), but it may work out to be the best thing all around. In the long run, he may decide his destiny for another few months lies at Treasury and in support of one of his colleagues. The Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller), it appears from every independent poll he has put forward, is leading the field. With our assistance in delaying his announcement, it could be that the Treasurer is going to find we have done him a great favour after all.

Since our meeting on Monday, the whole matter of the triple-A credit rating assigned to

this province by Standard and Poor's and other credit raters has been a matter of great concern. It was discussed in the House when there were only three or four people present: the Treasurer, myself, the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) and one or two others perusing the Toronto Sun.

It was not really a matter of great concern because the Treasurer had successfully calmed down speculation by indicating that this was simply a routine procedure. Then the Premier (Mr. Davis), whom we have not seen around here much, although I regularly see him on television doing his thing, was asked about the situation. He said he had been asked by the Treasurer to drop everything, rush to New York and participate in an appeal tribunal.

When asked about this matter in the House, the Premier did not say, as President Nixon said, that he had misspoken himself or misthought himself or something like that. He said he never said there was an appeal tribunal, but on the other hand, he had not been misquoted.

It is difficult to determine what his meaning was in that regard. There is a feeling on this side that the whole story has not yet been told. It probably would not have surfaced to this extent if it were not for people on the other side getting more involved in the leadership rivalry than is healthy for them, who simply could not resist letting the world into some of the actual difficulties and uncertainties at the Treasury which, with the front the Treasurer puts on to the House and the world, do not seem to appear as any grave concern. The fact remains that the Treasurer saw this as a routine procedure and the Premier saw it as something extra special.

I was interested in the responses of both those senior political officials of this province, particularly since we know how important the credit rating is considered on all sides, at least by the government party, and I join in its concern in that regard. It would be too bad if the richest province in Canada, one of the richest jurisdictions in North America, were not at the top of the list.

I was further interested to note that the Treasurer, in his comments both to the press and in the House, somehow managed to indicate that this was simply routine, and yet it appears to those of us who are less sanguine in this connection that Standard and Poor's had at least decided Ontario did not merit a triple-A rating.

It seems to me that if its rating were going to be reduced, it would be by one of those minuscule notches down to what would be next, double-A-plus. This would not have been the end of the world, but it would have cost us a quarter of one

per cent on our borrowings that are rated by that credit bureau, as I understand, so it is a significant number of dollars.

The real damage would have been to the credibility of the Treasurer and to some extent that of the Premier, but particularly the Treasurer, who does not want anything to interfere with his crusade to win the leadership of the Conservative Party and the premiership of the province. So it is a matter of great concern for him and a different type of concern for us. In this instance, I think our motives are somewhat less political than are the Treasurer's.

Since we do have a couple of hours and a bit more and since none of us here is in any great hurry to complete these estimates, because by agreement over the years they are rated at a certain level of importance and this time remains, it would be a good opportunity for the Treasurer to describe in some detail the process whereby Ontario has learned over the years to respond to the requirements of Standard and Poor's, providing information it requires in making its ratings on a regular basis.

It has been apparent in this House during the last few days that all three parties have used the telephone and have been in touch with officials of that commercial organization, and it has been quite amazing how free those officials have been in responding to questions about the process.

While the Premier indicated there was a special review of all Canadian jurisdictions, the individual, who is a relatively high-ranking one—in fact, responsible for preparing the information on which the rating for Ontario is based—said there was no special review whatsoever and that it was a continuation of bad economic reports from Ontario that had led Standard and Poor's to consider a downgrading to double-A-plus.

That particular person further indicated that three years of deficit plus an overall deficit of 12 per cent of our revenues were sufficient to trigger the downgrading procedure. We are aware that this has occurred in other provincial jurisdictions across Canada. It did not spell the end of the world for those jurisdictions, although it will cost them money, that is certain.

It appears that when this news came to the attention of the Treasurer, in a panic—and I have a feeling that what he does behind the glass walls of the Frost building is somewhat less composed than what we see him present to us here—he undertook to see that this was not actually going to occur and he was successful in having Standard and Poor's reconsider the matter after they talked to him and the Premier.

There is another matter he should perhaps refer to. He stated clearly here in response to questions that Standard and Poor's does not look into the future; it does not question the government of Ontario or its Treasurer and its Premier about what the future would hold. Its rating is based on a retrospective analysis; it is our record and that only.

Of course, Standard and Poor's in its printed reports has stated clearly that it has decided, on the basis of the assurances of the Treasurer, that our recovery is going to be "stronger than expected," not to move for the downgrading. It is interesting that in the past few weeks the Treasurer has been trying to persuade us that our recovery will be stronger than expected and has pooh-poohed the comments made by independent economic observers and observing organizations in Canada, indicating that only he knows what the future holds for Ontario and that in the immediate future it is an economically bright prospect.

12 noon

He has been so insistent about this that I had the feeling he was talking to another audience. At first I thought he was talking to prospective delegates at the convention. Then I thought perhaps he was talking to prospective voters at an election. But I now feel the main audience was some nice lady in New York in a corner office at Standard and Poor's on Wall Street, or wherever it is located, who might see some reference in a Canadian publication to the fact that our recovery is going to be "stronger than expected."

Anyway, it made it easier for the Treasurer and the Premier to convince them down there, not in any retrospective sense, that the future was going to be brighter for us than all the indicators, independent and otherwise, would indicate.

There is another thing that struck me as peculiar. In justifying his attendance, the Premier said he wanted to explain to the officials in New York that the economic and fiscal relationships between the provinces and the central government of Canada were somehow different from the fiscal and constitutional relationships between the states and the federal government in Washington.

I say with sincerity that for him to expect us to believe that is a bit much. I believe the officials at Standard and Poor's know more about these constitutional responsibilities and how they have worked over the centuries—century for us; centuries for them—than the Premier of Ontario ever dreams. It is quite obvious that their responsibilities on Wall Street are specific. A

lesson in constitutional history and law might have filled up some of the time in that meeting but really would have been redundant, completely unnecessary.

When we look at this situation, it appears that some leakage from a government official first triggered the press gallery, then the Legislature and the community. Something was rotten in the state of Denmark, as Hamlet said. Something was rather peculiar in the Treasury of Ontario.

Mr. Foulds: It was Marcellus.

Mr. Nixon: Was it Laertes? Sorry.

Mr. Foulds: It was Marcellus in the play.

Mr. Nixon: One of those guys.

As far as we were concerned, we were treated to three things that were difficult for us to rationalize. First was the question of whether this was a special review for Canada or whether it was a routine proceeding. The argument cuts both ways. If it was a special review, it justifies the Treasurer and the Premier dropping everything and rushing to New York to explain what was going on in Ontario.

The second thing that was difficult for us to understand was whether Standard and Poor's does its ratings only on a retrospective review, as the Treasurer has said, or whether it looks at the prospects for the jurisdiction, as Standard and Poor's has said in its own statements. Obviously, a continuation of our deficit at a rate of 12 per cent or more of our revenue is something it finds difficult to understand in an jurisdiction that continues to want to be rated triple-A.

Third, there was the strange statement by the Premier that he had to go to New York to explain the constitutional relationship of the province with the government of Canada as compared to that of the states with the government of the United States. I cannot believe that was so. It was the sort of wordy filler the Premier often uses to justify a very shaky position.

When the final story is written here, I think we will find the whole thing was caused by internecine, bloody warfare in the cabinet, something that is very strange indeed to surface at this level. We might have thought we would get to that a couple of days after Christmas or early in January. To start off with knives slashing around and heads rolling in the gutter is really strange. It makes us on this side think that perhaps we will not bother with the Christmas holiday; we will stay home with our feet up and read the Globe and Mail or the Toronto Sun. The Toronto Sun does not get to St. George until three or four days later. We have been able to live without that, but we will change it.

After this little crack in the monolithic structure of cabinet solidarity appeared, we got all this dancing, this fandango by the Treasurer and the Premier. The Treasurer tried to put a good face on what apparently was a nasty leak. The source of the leak was referred to on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. the other day. I will save it for another occasion. Since it was discussed on CBC, I feel it is in the public domain.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member should discuss it with his colleague.

Mr. Nixon: I think the minister is right. Does she mean to say it was not the Minister of Industry and Trade and perhaps it was she who leaked it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It was the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) who made the allegations—not anyone else.

Mr. Nixon: That sounds sensible to me. It was on the CBC. I heard it.

Then when the Treasurer had successfully smoothed the feathers of the opposition—and the two financial critics are quite readily soothed, Mr. Chairman, as you know—we heard the Treasurer indicate that all was well. These were just base canards, as he sometimes calls them—something like that—and we went on to other matters.

It was not until later that the Premier made his comments to the press. Then he said yes, this was an appeal tribunal and he had to go down to New York to stop his successor from having to face a downgrading in our credit rating. This was in association with his already reported statements that he had instructed his cabinet colleagues to ease off on their increases in expenditures in the present budgetary review so we would maintain our credit rating.

It started with a leak and went on to the Treasurer being less than frank with the press and the House. Then the poor Premier in the dying days of his administration was forced into a position where those usually sympathetic observers in the press gallery said his credibility factor was less than triple-A.

One could see it happening. What could he do? Could he come in and say: "Yes, I did have to go to New York to save the minister, who has been Treasurer for only a little while. He has obviously screwed this thing up. He was not able to convince the people in New York that the grand traditions of this jurisdiction were supportable"? No, he was not going to say that. He probably did not even want to come in to save the Treasurer's leadership expectations and cam-

paign. I am sure the Treasurer is quite capable of looking after that himself. He has a bevy of supporters and minions and explainers who are ready to fan out across the province to undertake that project.

I think it is worth while to discuss this now, when we have plenty of time away from the heat of the cameras and the observation of the world at large. When a bunch of us are sitting here earning our money, a bunch of the guys and a few others, it is a good opportunity for the Treasurer to level with us and tell us what really happened. He should explain how this process evolved. We would appreciate that, and I think the Premier would appreciate a straighter approach to this situation as well.

Although there are no politics in it for us, it will benefit the political aspirations of the Treasurer if he is seen to be explaining, in a frank and full way, what actually happened. He should explain what our prospects are as far as credit ratings are concerned.

12:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, I regret to disappoint the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), but the fact is that I have not been less than frank, nor has the Premier. This is not the first opportunity we have had to be frank. We have been frank, candid, open and honest on every occasion. Therefore, there is nothing I can add to what we have already said. In our view, that represents a totally accurate and complete discussion of what occurred in August.

In order that the record will not be sullied by suggestions of things occurring that did not occur, let me say the honourable member's suggestion that we decided suddenly, in a panic, to drop everything is just not accurate at all. We discussed the possibility of a visit to New York early in August. I had decided it would be prudent to go there. I quietly mentioned it to the Premier at a cabinet meeting; I obviously do not know which meeting it was. He said, "We will chat about it again."

As it happened, he was able to join us for the Standard and Poor's part of the day and we had that meeting. There is no question that I wanted him there, and there is no question that I impressed on him that one should always take ratings seriously and that I thought he should come. However, there was no sense of panic. We did not drop things at the last minute. It was well planned, long in advance, in quite an orderly and understandable circumstance.

The member has suggested that perhaps my optimism about the recovery was addressed to a

special audience and was not accurate. I need add nothing except the facts, which are that when I stood here on May 15, 1984, and predicted 4.7 per cent growth and a good deficit reduction this year without tax increases, essentially the only response that the then Treasury critic and the member's leader had was to say: "Larry is dreaming. We will never get 4.7 per cent. It is wildly optimistic. No one else agrees with him. It will not happen."

The one thing we know is that whatever audience they were speaking to, they are the ones who were dead wrong. Not only was 4.7 per cent achievable, but it now looks as if we will get five per cent. I would not want the record to imply, as a result of the remarks just made by the member, that I was in any way presenting overly optimistic, unsubstantiated predictions to convince the credit rating agencies or anyone else that the economy was better than it has turned out to be in Ontario.

Mr. Nixon: Why would they say it was stronger than expected?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Because it has turned out to be stronger than expected.

Mr. Nixon: It was not stronger than the minister expected.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was: five per cent, and I expected 4.7 per cent.

Mr. Nixon: We are only in about the second quarter from the minister's budget.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member wants to predict, as his leader did in May, that we will not get 4.7 per cent or five per cent, I invite him to do that. I caution him that we are right. I caution him that even his good friends at the Conference Board of Canada, who as we all know are somewhat less than optimistic, are now predicting about 4.7 or 4.8 per cent for Ontario. Although we are only halfway through the year, lest the member's leader try to lead once again on the pessimism side, I caution the member very carefully that we are going to exceed 4.7 per cent.

Mr. Nixon: I will go on the record and say that I think the Treasurer is overly optimistic.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Would my friend like to make a wager?

Mr. Nixon: The minister should write it down or carve it in his desk.

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Barlow): None of the rules provides for wagers.

Interjections.

The Acting Chairman: Could we go back to the Treasurer's response, which we are all interested in hearing.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The only other thing I should like to point out is the business about explaining constitutional responsibilities. The reason we chose to draw attention to it was that during the recession of the past couple of years, US municipalities have taken what I consider to be quite extraordinary and very harsh steps, mostly at the expense of the most needy in society, to cut their budgets so as to get their deficits down.

When we talked about constitutional responsibilities, we were pointing out that in Canada the provinces play a major role in the delivery of social and employment programs. That is not always the case south of the border. When we point out that our deficit improvement has not been as quick as that of municipalities in the US, part of the reason is a constitutional division of powers in which we take it upon ourselves in part to play a major role in fiscal stimulation and delivery of social programs and, therefore, those things have to be kept in mind when decisions are made with regard to relative deficit levels.

Yesterday in question period, until I was unfortunately interrupted, I was reading into the record Standard and Poor's International Creditweek on the Canada-wide review. The purpose of my reading it was to point out exactly what I have just said. Let me read it again, quoting from International Creditweek.

"The gradual adjustment in budgetary imbalances reflects both necessity and policy preferences." That is one of the exact points we were making. "In the Atlantic provinces and Quebec, policy options for reducing budget deficits are limited by high tax burdens and unemployment rates." Implicit in that is the fact that Ontario is deemed not to have that kind of high tax burden and the acknowledgement that our unemployment rate is also significantly lower.

International Creditweek goes on: "In Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan, sufficient fiscal flexibility exists for more-rapid deficit reduction, but the governments have chosen to make minimal use of revenue-raising capabilities because of the potential for undermining the economic recovery."

I am proud of that. Lest the member or others think I would have anything to apologize for or worry about in the event of a change of circumstance in New York, let me say that I would not apologize, and never have apologized,

for the fact that we have not increased taxes. That was a conscious and eminently right economic decision. To deal with what the member is suggesting, I would be pleased to place that decision in front of any group of people, inside or outside my party.

Not to take an unusual part or even a lot of the credit for it, the reality is that one of the reasons our economic recovery is going very well this year is the fact that we have a relatively low-tax environment and that we have not chosen to jump immediately to major tax increases either to get the deficit down for whatever reason or to give ourselves more fiscal flexibility so as to provide more funding for certain things.

Our decision was not to increase taxes, and I think that was eminently right. We were able to reduce the deficit, and our recovery continues to go very nicely. That is due at least in part to the fact that this government did not choose to come in this year with major tax increases, which in my view would have been inappropriate and wrong economic policy.

Others can challenge that economic policy, and some may, although I have not heard too many people advocating that we should put in tax increases. The fact is that we were able not only not to have tax increases but to reduce the deficit at the same time. Those are the kinds of things that are fundamentally important.

Let me continue to read the Standard and Poor's analysis: "Reflecting concern about the economy, many provinces also implemented stimulatory fiscal measures to help support employment growth, thus further slowing the budgetary adjustment process."

12:20 p.m.

I pause here to say that some provinces in Canada have chosen to decline any need or demand to introduce stimulatory fiscal measures. Provinces could say the national economy, employment and job creation are all federal responsibilities. One of the reasons it is important for us to be in touch with those people who analyse financial and fiscal performance is to say that while on paper it might be a valid analysis of responsibilities to leave employment and stimulatory fiscal measures to the federal government, we in Ontario, with a \$27-billion budget that has some impact on the economy, see our responsibility to be one that includes a mandate to do something in this area, admitting that we cannot, for example, compensate for national high interest rates, runaway inflation and a lot of other things. We have discussed that in this House many times.

I think it is appropriate that we do the kinds of things we are doing. We can debate whether we have done the right things, but one of the points we make is that it has become a custom and it has become important for a number of economic and social reasons for governments in Ontario to play a role in this area, and we have played it.

Let me also say, in fairness to my successor five times removed, that the day could come when Standard and Poor's, our rating agency, might say:

"You are probably doing absolutely the right thing governmentally, you are probably doing absolutely the right thing for the unemployed in your province and you are probably meeting your responsibilities very well. We admire that. Whether you as a borrower have a small-enough debt, a small-enough deficit, a small-enough public debt interest to warrant absolutely the best credit rating as opposed to almost the best is a different question.

"You are a very good, first-class government, meeting all your responsibilities. But implicit in the circumstances in Canada and your responsibilities as you choose to exercise them is the fact that in order to meet those responsibilities you have to spend a certain amount of money, which means you are not in circumstances equivalent to those of, for example, Alberta or some other province with a lot of resource revenue."

Mr. Nixon: I have a feeling you have been preparing that rationalization.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is just not so.

So in fairness, and I am being quite serious, I do not see this day coming; we are in quite good shape. But I must point out that it is important to try to assure those whose rating could cost us a lot of money that we are managing both to meet our broader responsibilities—and we outline those responsibilities and how well we have met them—and to run a fiscally conservative administration. We obviously have for many years been able to achieve both goals.

Let me continue: "Reflecting concern about the economy, many provinces also implemented stimulatory fiscal measures to help support employment growth, thus further slowing the budgetary adjustment process. While the economic and social arguments for gradual reduction of budget deficits are recognized, this course of action is riskier from a credit rating perspective because of the danger of an economic slowdown."

This furthers the point I just made. This is, I remind members, in the section of the overview

that talks about Canadian provinces generally. I read it not from the Ontario section but rather from the overview on the Canadian circumstances.

If one wants to discuss constitutional responsibilities and all that, this kind of overview explains why it is important to discuss those kinds of things and to talk openly and frankly so there is a good understanding not only of constitutional responsibilities but of how they have evolved over the years and how we have taken other and broader responsibilities upon ourselves.

I do not think there is anything I can add to the record. Everything that is factual is now on the record as a result of several days of discussions here. I am reviewing the suggestions, and everything has now been said on the issues. Members know everything there is to know.

Mr. McClellan: You hope; you wish.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Everything that we have to say.

Mr. Nixon: I just want to put it to the Treasurer that from our point of view it appeared that after its review, Standard and Poor's was not worrying about our credit. As the Treasurer explained and as his successor five times removed may say, the agency did seem to suggest that while the province is properly carrying out its responsibilities as it sees them, the continuation of a deficit of more than 12 per cent of revenues and certain other matters to which the agency made specific reference would not allow it to continue a triple-A rating. It did reduce the rating and so informed the Treasurer.

Before this is actually rung up on the big board or put out in its news releases, Standard and Poor's has a process whereby one has an opportunity, if not to appear before an appeal tribunal, at least to go down and say, "We think perhaps you have not fully considered the facts in our specific case, the things that make us as a province in Canada different from your states, the things that make us as the province of Ontario different from our sister provinces."

The highest officials of the province went down there and met with Standard and Poor's in what the Premier called—incorrectly at the time, he said—an "appeal tribunal." They convinced Standard and Poor's not to announce a reduction, but to give us at least a temporary reprieve and re-establish or continue the establishment of the triple-A rating.

Can the Treasurer assure us Standard and Poor's had not informed him it had either reduced

the rating to double-A-plus, or was contemplating that reduction?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes, I have told the member what happened. I have told him our circumstance. We have been over it many times. Given the fact the Premier and I both visited New York, I can understand and appreciate why he would wonder and extrapolate all these presumptions from it. I should remind the member there are many contacts during the course of the year and the Ontario Treasury is well known for staying in close and constant contact with all the rating agencies, and that includes at the ministerial level. The Premier sees the rating agency people when he is New York.

Mr. Foulds: This is the first time in 14 years that he has gone.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I said he sees them when he is there, often at other functions, talks with them often.

Mr. Foulds: It is the first time he has gone to a rating hearing.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was not. All I can tell the members is that the level of contact between the Treasury and the rating agencies is ongoing. It is normal. It is not once a year. It is many times a year and all I can say is it is ongoing. That is why we understood so well about the review of Canada and why our people said, "I think the ministry should go do this."

I understand why all the alarm bells went off. They should not have. Let the member read the conclusions of Standard and Poor's if he wants to suggest that somehow we got a temporary reprieve. That is not the way it happens. I remind the member that Standard and Poor's, Moody's and Dominion Bond Rating Service have an obligation to their people who buy bonds based on the rating. They are paid rates based upon the rating given by these neutral, very objective analysts.

12:30 p.m.

They have an obligation to give their best and most objective understanding and conclusions based upon what they have learned. If they thought there was a difficult circumstance here, if there was any sense it was fragile or temporary as the member suggests, their obligation is not to us. Their obligation is to the bond buyers. In no way would they compromise that obligation if they thought there was any weakness. It is their responsibility. Their entire reputation is based upon what they print, the ratings they rely upon. It is upon that basis that billions of dollars of money is invested.

Let us read into the record from Standard and Poor's again:

"S and P affirms its triple-A ratings on long-term debt issues that are guaranteed by the province of Ontario. The ratings are based on the strength of the province's continuing economic recovery from the 1982 recession, its low financing requirements relative to the provincial economy and a relatively stable debt level."

I draw members' attention to that statement; it is quite a credit to this government, having taken the largest industrial jurisdiction in the land through a recession that hit right at the core of the auto sector, which is so important to our economy, and coming out of that recession without having compromised social programs and still having "low financing requirements relative to the provincial economy and a relatively stable debt level."

That surely is the definitive answer to any suggestion the member or anyone else wants to put out that this is in any sense temporary or fragile. It is not a speech given out by the Treasurer, by the Premier or by anyone else in this government. It is from the people who are accountable for billions of dollars of money being lent, and that is what they are saying to those money lenders. That tells it all. Nothing more need be added in terms of the security of our credit rating than the conclusions of those very objective analysts.

Mr. Nixon: The thing that does not hold up in all this is the Premier's role and the Premier's statements as reported in the Toronto Sun. The Treasurer must have had a few palpitations when he read the report by Claire Hoy in the Sunday Sun last week. He probably got on the blower immediately to find out what that was all about.

The actual statements of the Premier in this matter prior to his being forced to come into the Legislative Assembly, backtrack and cover the differences between his approach to this and the Treasurer's, are a cause for some concern in my mind as the Treasury critic for the Liberal Party and as a long-time observer of the Premier. It is not the Premier's style to say anything he does not mean. It is not his style not to check with all the officials associated with a matter of this grave concern.

The Premier said he was not misquoted. He implied there was a lack of understanding between himself and the reporters, which is questionable. I am not particularly a fan of the major reporter on the Sun. He once said about me that he personally disliked me, and I would say this feeling has grown strongly mutual over the

years. However, I have never known him to be unreliable, in spite of the fact that I do not like reading what he says. He indicated the credibility of the government in this matter is less than triple-A; I think that was the headline used.

There will be a time when all the details of this are exposed. The Treasurer has given us his assurances as a man we know well and respect, a person with great expectations and an honourable member of this House, and we accept what he has said. He has denied there was ever a concern about the downgrading of our rating in this regard. But when one looks at the story in total, and in many respects it is the Premier who is the weak link in our acceptance of the story, our concern has to be expressed to you, Mr. Chairman.

We will certainly observe this matter as it unfolds further over the next few weeks, or over the next few years, with the greatest attention.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, in reference to the Premier's visit to the House here on Tuesday, I would simply say I think he used the words "appeal tribunal" or "appeal court." There is literally not a member on this side who has not heard the Premier use those words on dozens of occasions. It is vernacular on this side of the House. It applies to everything from circumstances when we sit at—

Mr. Foulds: It is funny how it has not crept into his common speech with the public.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He understands and discusses with the public and relates to them a whole lot better than the member does.

Every time somebody comes into the policy and priorities committee on those delightful Thursday afternoons this time of year—

Mr. Nixon: Claire Hoy is not a patsy in these matters. He may be lots of things, but he is not that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did not accuse anyone of being a patsy. I am just here to answer members' questions and explain to the House, because of the House's concern which is a proper concern, what happened. I want to tell members that every Thursday afternoon when ministers walk in, as I used to trundle into that room as Minister of Health, they have been told: "The court of appeal is now in session. What have you got to say, Minister, and why do you need so much?" It goes on—

Mr. Nixon: Did he say, "The appeal tribunal is now in session"?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He has said that as well.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He says everything. Indeed, in cabinet, I would tell the member quite honestly, there is rarely a Wednesday that goes by when the Treasurer and the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague) are not invited to sit later, as the court of appeal, to hear a particular matter that cabinet has not been able to resolve with a minister who absolutely needs an additional sum of money or else he cannot get by in the next two weeks.

If we cannot resolve it at cabinet, the Premier often says, "The court of appeal, with the Chairman of Management Board and the Treasurer, will convene or stay back after cabinet." He often says, "If that is not resolved, the appeal tribunal, the appeal court, or whatever, will convene in my office before next Wednesday and we will resolve this matter."

It has even been known to occur in a constituency matter. The member will be surprised to hear that once in a while there are constituency matters ministers cannot resolve for members. I know that we ministers resolve almost all constituency matters the members across the way raise, and you people take credit for all that. But occasionally there is one of these matters on this side of the House that is not easy to resolve. The Premier says, "The tribunal will meet after caucus, or before the end of the week, before you go home, in my office and we will resolve this." That vernacular is common over here.

Mr. Nixon: I think some of the ministers have done him in.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not think that is the case. That would be a dangerous thing for anyone to do.

Mr. Nixon: No, I do not think so.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Oh, yes. There is another thing I should like to tell members. I know the members and their people pore over every word on this thing to see if, at any length, they can draw any diversion between an adjective that I used or an adverb the Premier used, a phrase that Marie Cavanaugh used, and all that stuff.

Mr. Nixon: What the Premier said must have scared the wits out of the Treasurer.

12:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Is the member saying it scared the wits out of me? I will tell him the truth. "Appeal court," or "appeal tribunal," whatever it was—this is exactly the way I can tell the member, my staff will tell him this—is so normal that when I read it, it did not set off alarms. I did

not call or speak to the Premier until some time on Tuesday, when I spoke to him about a totally unrelated matter on Tuesday around noon. At the end, I was kidding him about the article.

That was it. I will tell the member quite directly there were no calls, there was no panic and there were no urgent meetings. That is the reason that on Tuesday, having been here for eight of 12 question periods, estimates Monday and estimates last Friday, and having had 45 minutes of question time on it, at two o'clock, when I had a whole host of meetings scheduled in my office, including about an hour and a half with my deputy because I had been spending so much time out of the office—on cabinet business, I might add, right here—I chose to get some of that work done in my office.

Had those words spoken so ominously to those of us who live on this side of the House as they obviously had to others, it would have only been good and smart politics—and the member will acknowledge this—for me to have been here at two o'clock on Tuesday to get the issue resolved quickly. There would be no conceivable reason, if this was festering or if we had thought it would fester, I would have said, "Oh, let us just let it fester for two more days until Thursday." The honourable member might accuse me of other things, but he would not accuse me of having such inaccurate political judgement as to say: "Here is a big issue. Let it fester for another 48 hours."

Mr. Nixon: I am surprised you missed the fact that it was an issue.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The reason we missed it is that "appeal tribunal" is kind of the way we talk over here. It just did not send up all those alarms. That is exactly what happened.

Finally, I want to say this because I know the member watches all those words very carefully. He has said we denied it was ever a concern. We have said, and my predecessor has said, "We are always concerned about the credit rating." The fact that there was this special review, to use Mr. Taillon's words, caused us to say, "Let us just make sure everything is okay."

We are always concerned—every year, all the time, through the recession. Of course, last year at this time, after all, we were working on a \$2.7-billion deficit. Does the member not think we were concerned last year and in the previous year when it was \$2.3 billion?

Mr. Foulds: Last year the Premier did not have to go down to New York.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I admit quite openly that this Treasurer is a cautious person. He did

not want to take any chances and he thought it was just as well we did that. I do not apologize for a second for trying to ensure that Ontario pays prime rate, that no one pays a better rate than Ontario. Indeed, I would be subject to a lot of criticism if somehow we had neglected to do everything at all times to protect the rating.

I can tell members that I do not know what I would have done last year if I had had this job. Maybe I would have asked the Premier to join me. Maybe, like my predecessor, I would not have gone. Those are judgements everyone makes. My predecessor obviously did not think it was necessary, and he was right. All I can say is that I play it cautiously at all times, and that is what we did. I have no apologies for anything.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I would like to ask the Treasurer a series of short questions. First, precisely when did the meeting with Standard and Poor's take place? On what date?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not know.

Mr. Foulds: I find that very difficult to believe. This has been a matter of public concern for at least a week, if not more, and the Treasurer has not taken the time to find out precisely the day he and the Premier appeared before Standard and Poor's.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let us be mature about this. Does the member think it is a secret? Is there any reason I would hide from him the date of my visit to New York?

Mr. Foulds: Then tell us the date.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will tell member the date in a minute; the staff will try to figure out what date it was. But the member should not stand up in this House and suggest I am hiding it or that I do not care and have not found out, or that this indicates I do not take it seriously.

Mr. Foulds: I asked a simple question which needs a simple answer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member did not ask a simple question; he should not suggest he asked a simple question. His second question implied that I will not tell or I will not find out. I could ask the member when did he last see his riding association or what day in August did he see his riding president or something. I do not happen to know offhand which day it was in August, but I will tell him in a second.

Mr. Foulds: If it were a matter of public controversy, I would sure as hell find out.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member might think the date is very relevant. I must admit the

fact of the visit is very important, but the date is hardly a key to it. The date was August 28.

Mr. Foulds: Is it not true the Premier had to cancel commitments he had with Brian Mulroney's federal tour in northern Ontario on that date in order to go to New York?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That very day the Premier was with Brian Mulroney in Toronto. That is all I remember of the day.

Mr. Foulds: Did he not cancel a further commitment he had with Brian Mulroney to appear in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not know the answer to that question.

Mr. Foulds: That is fine. I understand that.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will give the member the length of answer I choose. Lest he wants to suggest that this indicates something very significant, let me also be clear—whether there are any questions being asked or not—I emphasize this was a review being done in Treasury and Economics and I said, "Let us go down to New York."

If the Treasurer of this province says to the Premier, "Premier, it is my judgement that a visit by you would be helpful and I would like you to come," the Premier would be subject to extraordinary criticisms if he said, "Treasurer, I know the credit rating is important, but I think I will go to northern Ontario with Brian Mulroney."

I do not know where the member wants to go with this, but I am extremely proud to say that in this administration, when the Treasurer of the province says, "Premier, I think it is prudent to do this," and the Premier of this province chooses to cancel a visit to northern Ontario with Brian Mulroney; that is the proper way to run a government.

Mr. Foulds: I fully agree.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am not finished. I will tell my friend just who says that is the right way to run a government, so he will have something on which to reflect over the weekend. I decided to go back in history a bit and I found in November 1975 that questions were raised by the opposition about this issue then.

Here is what the leader of the New Democratic Party, Stephen Lewis, said at the time, "Imagine our rating if we had been the government." That indicates what the former leader of the New Democratic Party thought about the importance of the credit rating, and probably explains why, in similar circumstances, he would have gone on a political mission to northern Ontario. My

leader goes to New York because his Treasurer says the rating is important.

Mr. Foulds: What is at stake here is the continuing difference in the stories of the Treasurer and the Premier. The Treasurer has constantly and consistently put forward the story that it was an ordinary, natural and normal process meeting. Will he tell us, if he can tell us, what stage the review process was at when he went to New York with the Premier? There is a standard five-step review. What stage was that review at when the Treasurer and the Premier visited New York?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Someone over there read out a multistage—

Mr. Foulds: Five-stage.

12:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know nothing of that five-stage process.

Mr. Foulds: The Premier indicated in his answers to the House that the meeting was unique in that there were seven or eight, in his words, reviewers across the table. Is that accurate?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You are asking were there seven or eight people there?

Mr. Foulds: Seven or eight people from Standard and Poor's.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Five or six.

Mr. Foulds: Can he tell us the makeup of that panel? What various kinds of economic interest did each of the members of that panel have?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There was a meeting. I emphasize it was not a panel; it was nothing like a court of appeal. There was a group of people. I do not remember offhand if there were five, six or seven and I cannot tell the member what their backgrounds were. It was a group of people from Standard and Poor's.

Mr. Foulds: The Treasurer has just said it was nothing like a court of appeal. Yet he says the Premier used "court of appeal" because the Premier uses that phrase all the time about what I would consider to be an appeal process. How then can the Treasurer explain this discrepancy in the use of the term "court of appeal"?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have discussed this, I thought, at various points for the last couple of days and certainly the last 20 minutes or half hour. I can only remind the member once again that when the Premier uses the phrase "court of appeal" around here with regard to allocations, it is not an appeal either. He refers to that when we start the allocations process.

The policy and priorities board meets and each minister—listen carefully—before a decision is made, is invited to come in and give his or her view on what his or her ministry requires for the next year. No decision has been made. It is the commencement of the allocations process. That is how it begins. In this way, the ministries get a chance to speak to the ministers on the policy and priorities board at the start of the process. They do it then—not after a preliminary decision has been made and they must come in to try to unravel it.

That may help the member understand the circumstances in which the leader of this government tends to use those words.

Mr. Foulds: The Treasurer has constantly said the process undergone by Standard and Poor's is entirely retrospective when it establishes a credit rating. It is retrospective when it looks at whether or not the province will continue to have a triple-A or double-A plus credit rating or whatever. He said that in this House and he has not yet withdrawn those words.

Can he explain, if the process is entirely retrospective, how Standard and Poor's could reach this conclusion in its Canada-wide review: "Improved budgetary results in fiscal 1985 and 1986 are expected to reduce the debt burden."? How could it come to that conclusion based entirely on a current and previous evaluation of Ontario's actions?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It may not have been the next five words I used, whenever that question was asked last Thursday or Friday, but I know in fairness the member will recall the words I used during that same series of questions. I pointed out that we had indicated to them we were well on the record as wanting to continue to reduce the deficit.

Standard and Poor's says, "While the economic and social arguments for gradual reduction of budget deficits are recognized, this course of action is riskier from a credit rating perspective because of the danger of an economic slowdown."

Obviously, they contemplate what the risks of an economic slowdown are. Notwithstanding the comments of the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, there is not much the government of Ontario is going to do in reassuring the rating agency that we do not have a big risk of an economic slowdown. We can offer our view, but in essence the questions of sound financial management and how big a debt one has incurred are the main items.

Let me also remind the members that the rationale used by Standard and Poor's in its analysis of Ontario begins by saying, "The ratings are based on the strength of the province's continuing economic recovery from the 1982 recession, its low financing requirements relative to the provincial economy and its relatively stable debt levels." That is all retrospective. If the member is asking—

Mr. Foulds: That is right, but you did not read the next part I read, that is futuristic.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will read the next part.

"After a severe economic downturn in 1982, the Ontario economy rebounded in 1983 and is expected to lead the provinces in real growth in 1984." I pause here to say that Standard and Poor's does not reach that conclusion just because the Treasurer says, "Not to worry, we are going to lead the provinces."

To continue: "Manufacturing and, in particular, automotive products have led the recovery and have recently led a resurgence in business investment plans. Despite the improved economic performance, budgetary deficits have been slow to decline."

I consider from \$2.7 billion to \$2 billion, a \$700-million reduction in the deficit from predicted 1983-84 to 1984-85, to be a significant deficit reduction.

"The fiscal '85 budget projects a third year of operating deficits and a budgetary deficit exceeding 12 per cent of revenues. However, stronger than expected economic growth appears likely to result in a lower budget deficit this year, and further improvements in fiscal '86 are anticipated."

If they want to wonder whether we have adopted budgetary policies that are prudent, i.e., relying on revenues in the past as opposed to tax increases, as I did this year, when they would have less concern about revenues because I would have boosted taxes, then one can understand why, if I had gone the tax route, perhaps they may not have put that in. I do not know.

In assessing how we are doing, they look at the last budget and the ones preceding it, discuss the taxation climate and draw certain conclusions. In discussing my budget, I said: "I want you to understand the budget strategy I have adopted. It is one that is based on the recovery and on improved revenues as opposed to tax increases." Given that, I am not surprised they would comment on the strength of the recovery and anticipated budgetary improvements due to revenue increases. I am not surprised. That is the

part that is prospective, as the member would put it.

There is nothing unusual about all that.

Mr. Foulds: Except they do not talk about revenue improvements; they talk about revenue flexibility. I would like to ask the Treasurer, seeing that he took such great pride in his aside in reading the excerpt from Standard and Poor's about his reduction of the deficit, can he confirm the statement that has not been contradicted in Rosemary Speirs's column in the Toronto Star, which said, "Grossman is aiming at reducing the \$2.03-billion deficit in his 1984 budget to \$1.2 billion next year." Is that true or not?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There is no figure established for the deficit next year. How could there be? I am just starting the allocations process. Obviously, we have not yet begun to look at the tax circumstance for next year and it would be early for me to predict the revenue for next year.

Let me indicate where that sort of figure would appear. That sort of figure could be arrived at by anyone reading my speeches, because my speeches say quite clearly, long before we went to New York, that I believe the percentage of revenue taken up by public debt interest has to be stabilized. If one takes a calculator to figure out what deficit level we have to get down to this year in order to stabilize public debt interest, that

number would be about \$1.2 billion. That is where it comes from.

I could not have arrived at that figure as a final determination with regard to the deficit for next year. There are a lot of things that could happen. Interest rates change on the money that is being refinanced. The debt is falling due and has to be refinanced. That will change the circumstance. Perhaps a \$1.4-billion or a \$1.6-billion level will be sufficient to stabilize public debt interest.

There are a number of variables. Given the variables extant today and certain presumptions on interest rates, that is the sort of figure that would obviously stabilize public debt interest. That is where that \$1.2-billion figure comes from.

Mr. Foulds: Is it fair to say it is the government's aim to reduce the deficit?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Treleaven): May I draw the attention of the member for Port Arthur to the clock.

Mr. Foulds: Oh, yes. I would adjourn the debate at this point.

The Acting Chairman: Is there some understanding that these estimates may be voted on today?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Grossman, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

APPENDIX
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
 (118 members)

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

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- | | |
|---|--|
| Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP) | Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP) |
| Andrewes, Hon. P. W. , Minister of Energy
(Lincoln PC) | Gregory, Hon. M. E. C. , Minister of Revenue
(Mississauga East PC) |
| Ashe, Hon. G. L. , Minister of Government
Services (Durham West PC) | Grossman, Hon. L. S. , Treasurer of Ontario
and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St.
Patrick PC) |
| Baetz, Hon. R. C. , Minister of Tourism and
Recreation (Ottawa West PC) | Haggerty, R. (Erie L) |
| Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC) | Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Bennett, Hon. C. F. , Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC) | Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC) |
| Bernier, Hon. L. , Minister of Northern
Affairs (Kenora PC) | Henderson, L. C. (Lambton PC) |
| Birch, M. (Scarborough East PC) | Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC) |
| Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L) | Hodgson, W. (York North PC) |
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| Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Kerr, G. A. (Burlington South PC) |
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| Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC) | Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC) |
| Davis, Hon. W. G. , Premier (Brampton PC) | Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC) |
| Dean, Hon. G. H. , Provincial Secretary for
Social Development (Wentworth PC) | Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP) | Leluk, Hon. N. G. , Minister of Correctional
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| Drea, Hon. F. , Minister of Community and
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| Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP) |
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 mental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)

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Worton, H. (Wellington South L)

Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

Yakubuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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 Council

Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier and Minister
 responsible for Women's Issues

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 mental Affairs

Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs

Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation
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Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal
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Miller, Hon. F. S., Minister of Industry and
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Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education
 and Minister of Colleges and Universities

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Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and
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Grossman, Hon. L., Treasurer of Ontario and
 Minister of Economics

McCague, Hon. G., Chairman of Management
 Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet

Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and
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Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations

Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for
 Justice

Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister of Revenue

Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural
 Resources

Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional
 Services

Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Government
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 bers, Messrs. Di Santo, Eakins, Hennessy,
 Hodgson, Lane, MacQuarrie, Mitchell, Philip,
 Sheppard and Van Horne; clerk, D. Arnott.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
Barlow, W. W., Acting Chairman (Cambridge PC)
Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
Dean, Hon. G. H., Provincial Secretary for Social Development (Wentworth PC)
Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of Citizenship and Culture (St. George PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
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Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
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Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Treleaven, R. L., Acting Chairman (Oxford PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)





Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, November 5, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, November 5, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I wonder if you could give me some direction on how the privileges of the members of the House could be protected with regard to our responsibility to raise matters of public concern with ministers of the crown and for those ministers to respond in this assembly.

As members know, on Friday our colleague the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) introduced a motion that the ordinary business of the House be put aside to deal with a matter he considered to be an emergency. He was supported in that by the members of this caucus, as well as his own, and there was a vote on that.

At that time, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) was not present in the House. Subsequent to that, I understand that on Saturday the minister made a public statement of very great importance to the fishermen who were the subject of the matter of emergency in the view of members of the opposition on Friday. Now I understand the minister is not going to be in his place today to deal with the crisis in the commercial fishing industry in this province and how his ministry is responding to that.

Since the minister made the announcement that he was not going to run for the leadership of his party, he has not appeared in the Legislature. I wonder what can be done. How can members of this House carry out their responsibilities with regard to issues related to the Ministry of Natural Resources, and specifically the crisis in the fishing industry, if the minister does not deign to come into the House but has the gall to make statements outside the Legislature about an issue that affects the livelihood of fishermen across the province?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. Having listened very carefully, I must rule that is not a point of privilege, as the member probably already knows. I have no control over statements that are made outside this chamber, nor can I assure the attendance of any member in this House.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I am sure all honourable members would want to join me in congratulating the government on yesterday's Ontario government float in the Santa Claus parade. It was indicative of the contribution this government has made to the province over many years. It was entitled "Santa's Prehistoric Friends."

I want to congratulate the government on that float and all the members of the cabinet who obviously got out of the rain, got inside the dinosaurs and did an excellent job.

Mr. Speaker: Again, this is hardly a point of privilege, but rather interesting. I did not see the parade myself.

VISITOR

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, before I begin my first question, which is to the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch), I note the Premier (Mr. Davis) has other obligations that take him away from his place. However, I want to welcome the Premier's wife, who I see is in the government's gallery today. It is good to see her. We read a lot about her in the press these days and we welcome her to the Legislature.

ORAL QUESTIONS

FAMILY LAW REFORM

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Now for the nasty part.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Mr. Conway: I will not be provoked by either the comments or the attire of the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow).

Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister responsible for Women's Issues, who I see has been out proselytizing once again on this very important aspect of his parliamentary mandate. Given the ever-increased rhetoric of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues, I wonder what comments he might make in the House today in response to a just-released press statement from Ms. Sam Ion, the newly appointed chairman of the Ontario Status of Women Council.

It deplores the fact that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) continues to delay the introduction of the much-hoped-for and long-promised amendments to the Family Law Reform legislation which would deal with the division of business assets.

The minister expresses very great concern about what is not being done outside this Legislature and what is not being done by others outside the immediate purview of the Ontario government. What has he to say about what seemed to us very justified concerns from his own council about the incredible tardiness of the Attorney General in bringing forward that legislation? It was much talked of and promised long ago.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I was very much encouraged by the release which came from the Ontario Status of Women Council and particularly by the comments of the president. Under the circumstances, these are points of view that have to be kept before us. As I read the press release, I thought she was simply underlining many of the matters that had been contained within the brief of that council to government.

I know the Attorney General gave a very full answer to the question put to him by the leader of the third party a few days ago in the House with respect to that. I know the Attorney General is very diligent with respect to looking after those proposed amendments. I have been part of those deliberations and in due time I think the member will see the results of them.

To summarize, the new president of the Ontario Status of Women Council was drawing the attention of the government and the public to a position the council has taken for some months now. She expressed interest that we would expedite the implementation of some of those recommendations.

Mr. Conway: The minister well knows that the only thing the Attorney General has been diligent about is securing headlines on this subject.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Conway: Does the minister recall that the Ontario Status of Women Council does not just report on this subject today but "abhors any further delay"? Does he share the abhorrence of the council in this matter? What particular undertaking is he prepared to give this House to move his very tardy colleague the Attorney General along to an immediate introduction of

these amendments which he promised would be introduced as long ago as six or eight months?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The abhorrence belongs to the members of the council who issued the statement. What they were saying is they have made their position quite clear and they would be encouraged to see this matter progress more quickly. That is their point of view. They should express it and they have.

The Attorney General has been very clear. I am quite impressed with his commitment to further reform. One knows the history of this. I can recall the beginnings of all of this change in the law and I am quite satisfied that in due time we will have the results of all this. As the honourable member realizes, there has been a fair amount of consultation and a fair amount of work is being done within government in preparation for the introduction of these amendments. They will be coming forward once the work under his leadership has been completed.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the minister will know that the Attorney General promised us this legislation a year and a half ago. He promised it to us again last spring. We hear the cabinet was split on the issue in June and sent the Attorney General back. We understand from the Attorney General that the cabinet is still split on this important question.

Can the minister tell us why we do not have the legislation yet and why, according to the government House leader, we will be getting this bill for first reading only by December, which, as the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) knows perfectly well, means the legislation may never see the light of day under this government because we may well have an election before the matter ever comes to second reading?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it is important to recall that when I served as Attorney General it was quite obvious that in the first round of reform of family law there was some need to make sure there was wide consultation. The honourable member will perhaps recall the steps taken at that time to make sure people understood those steps.

I do not think it should be any surprise that once the amendments are ready and are brought in, the member will be quite impressed with this legislation. As leader of the New Democratic Party, the member for York South (Mr. Rae) is the last person who would want to stand in the way of public consultation with respect to this legislation, and there should be no problem with the member in making sure there is a vehicle by which people will ultimately be able to comment on this legislation.

As my colleague the House leader reminds me, there are some other pieces of legislation in Orders and Notices now that might benefit women. I would remind the member with respect to where Bill 141 is at the moment.

Mr. Conway: On the record of this Ontario Progressive Conservative government with respect to affirmative action, and noting again the minister's very colourful rhetoric about the dismal record of so many hospitals, school boards and municipalities, my question to him—looking at one particular category of very influential people within the Ontario bureaucracy, namely, the deputy ministers, where there is about six per cent female representation—is what specific affirmative action plan do the minister and his government have immediately to improve the government's truly dismal and laughably bad record of bringing women into that very senior level of policy-making within the government of Ontario itself.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I am quite prepared to respond to what my friend thinks is a supplementary question. I remind him that the main question had to do with the reform of family law. Now we are into affirmative action, which seems to stray just a bit from the main question. However, I am very anxious to answer the supplementary, notwithstanding the fact that it does not appear to be supplementary to the main question. I would point—

Mr. Speaker: After having heard that, I would point out to the Deputy Premier that supplementaries stem from the answers, not from the main question.

Hon. Mr. Welch: With great respect, may I invite the Speaker to look at Hansard. You will not find my having made any reference to affirmative action up to this time.

As far as affirmative action is concerned, I would challenge my friend to find any political jurisdiction on this continent that enjoys the record we do with respect to an affirmative action program. It has been going on for 10 years. The record is all there. If he will drop in on Friday morning, we will chat about it during my estimates.

There is a long way to go. This minister has always indicated he is not satisfied necessarily with where things are, but I suggest to the members we do not impose artificial quotas. We talk in terms of targets, goals and the methods by which we accomplish those.

We are not talking about reverse discrimination. We are talking about positive affirmative action. We are talking about targets and goals

that call for 30 per cent representation by women in a large number of occupational modules here. In the administrative one alone, we are 16 years ahead of the schedule under which we promote people into management roles.

If the school boards, universities, municipalities and hospital boards of Ontario were simply to catch up to where the government of Ontario is, we would have a remarkable result in this province of opportunity.

Mr. Conway: Where it really counts, there are two women as deputy ministers, and that record speaks eloquently for itself.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Conway: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Talk about dismal. Talk about shameful. Let him without sin cast the first stone.

Mr. Speaker: Shall it be you or I?

Mr. Conway: I know the minister is preaching for a call.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt), who I believe has returned from the Niagara Falls Club and was to be in the House today. Perhaps I can stand my second question down in anticipation of the minister's response, or is he calling together the leftovers of the Big Blue Machine to determine whether he too might be a candidate for this race? I will stand my second question down.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice we were advised the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) would be here today for question period. I would like a chance to address a question to him.

POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I also have a question for the Deputy Premier in his role as the senior cabinet representative of the Conservative Party in the Legislature. It concerns the press conference given on Friday by Mr. David McFadden, the president of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

He stated a new compromise position had been reached after consulting the candidates on the question of the disclosure of contributions to this leadership race. I am quoting from a report in the *Globe and Mail*. Mr. McFadden said: "The selection of the next Conservative leader is 'a private matter,' even though the successful candidate will be the next Premier."

Is the official position of the Conservative Party in this Legislature that the selection of the

next Premier of this province is "a private matter"?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I hardly think this is a question related to public policy, which is usually addressed by members during question period.

Mr. Rae: It certainly is.

Mr. Cooke: It is a "private matter."

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party is holding a convention in January to select a new leader. At the moment, it happens that party also is charged with the responsibility of government. As a further step, the new leader will be sworn in by the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario as the Premier of Ontario.

On this side of the House, we happen to belong to a fairly democratically organized party.

Mr. Foulds: Fairly?

Hon. Mr. Welch: A very organized party.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: A very democratic party.

Hon. Mr. Welch: May I indicate to Hansard that instead of the word "fairly," write "very" organized, a "very" democratic party.

The executive has reflected on this and, on the basis of careful thought, has developed the policy for the party for this convention. I would not take exception to the process through which it went and the reasons it gave. That was the subject matter.

I do point out, however, this is not a matter of public policy. The members know very well that once that individual is selected as the leader of this party, he becomes the Premier of Ontario and the Premier of Ontario for a long time to follow.

I might point out that when the next consultation comes, as far as the public is concerned, there is full disclosure and all the rules of the Election Finances Reform Act come into play. The members know that.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I feel it is appropriate at this time to remind the members that questions asked of the government must relate to the responsibilities of the ministers. I am not sure that talking about election policy or party policy is the responsibility of the Deputy Premier.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Conservative Party is engaged in the process of electing a new Premier of this province by virtue of the fact it has the majority of the seats in this Legislature. If that is not a matter of public policy, a matter that

concerns this Legislature and a matter of public discussion that the senior minister of the Conservative Party in this Legislature is required and entitled to answer to, I do not know what is. It is surely a legitimate matter for public discussion and questioning in this Legislature.

Mr. Speaker: As you have phrased your question, I am not sure of his responsibilities with the particular party. I am not sure he is a senior member of it, but he is a senior member of government; I think we cannot confuse the two. I ask the honourable member to direct his questions along the lines of the responsibility—

Mr. Stokes: Just because the Clerk thinks it is a sensitive question does not make it an illegitimate one.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: You should know better, Jack.

Mr. Stokes: I have been there.

Mr. Speaker: No; with all respect, I ask the honourable member to address his questions to those ministers who have line responsibilities for particular ministries.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I am not entirely clear what your ruling is. Are we precluded from asking questions with respect to why the Conservative Party has decided it will not list the amounts of contributions from individuals to the election of the Premier of this province? I think that is a very legitimate question for public debate in this province. Surely we are entitled to know who it is and how much their—

Mr. Speaker: Order. All I am saying is that in asking that question, nobody here has an answer for you.

Mr. Rae: The Deputy Premier has an answer.

Mr. Speaker: No. The Deputy Premier is the Deputy Premier; he is not an officer of the party to which you refer.

Mr. Rae: With great respect, Mr. Speaker, the Premier has chosen to be away every single day since he announced his retirement in this House, with the exception of the one day we forced him to turn up. If he chooses to be an absent duck as well as a lame duck that is his privilege, but we are certainly entitled to ask questions.

I submit to you and to the Deputy Premier of this province that this matter is not something to be settled in the back rooms of the Albany Club. It is a matter that affects every single citizen of this province and we are entitled to ask questions about it. I think we are entitled to ask questions of the Deputy Premier in the absence of the

Premier. Were the Premier here, I would be addressing the questions to him.

Mr. Speaker: All I am saying is that you are asking questions on matters of party policy as opposed to matters of government policy. If you want an answer on party policy, I presume you would have to ask it of the appropriate person in the party.

Mr. Rae: If it is an entirely private matter, perhaps it would be appropriate if all the cabinet ministers who are running were to resign their cabinet positions and say, "This is an entirely private matter within the club and not something that affects the people of the province." There are cabinet ministers who are going all over the province declaring their views on all kinds of policies that are different from current government policy. That government is falling apart at the seams.

My supplementary question to the Deputy Premier is this: does he not think it right as a matter of fundamental public policy that the public of Ontario should be entitled to know, not only the names of contributors but the amounts those contributors are contributing to the Conservative leadership race? He has said, "Whoever it is who is chosen, whether it is a short time or a long time, neither you nor I know, sir, but what we do know is that the Lieutenant Governor of this province will be calling upon the winner at that convention to form the next government in this province." Does he not think we should know who contributed to his campaign and how much?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. I am going to have to rule that question out of order because it has nothing to do with the minister's responsibilities.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, may I try a supplementary question?

Mr. Speaker: Sure.

Mr. Nixon: You may recall that questions pertaining to contributions to leadership candidates were in order last week. They were directed in the instance I am thinking of to the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller). We were trying to persuade him to make a clean breast of his contributions.

Since this question is directed to the Deputy Premier and is something that is directly associated with his responsibility, can he report to the House how successful he has been in persuading his seatmate, the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), to make the four male candidates honest by announcing her own candidacy and

throwing her hat or some other appropriate piece of apparel into the ring?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not own a hat.

Mr. Speaker: I am not sure that had much to do with the minister's responsibilities. Perhaps we can work the final supplementary around his responsibilities.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the Deputy Premier a question concerning a matter of legislation. We could amend the Election Finances Reform Act in one afternoon to deal with what I think many people in the province, regardless of their political affiliation, feel is a problem: that the contributions and the amount of contributions to what is going to be a very expensive campaign are being taken by the party in question to be a purely private matter.

Does the Deputy Premier think that is a legitimate public matter? Does he not think the Election Finances Reform Act should be amended to require, as a matter of law, that contributions of services of any kind, giving not only the names but also the amounts, to leadership candidates in this kind of a contest should be matters that are public, matters that are disclosed and matters that everyone is fully aware of? Does he not think we could introduce and pass that kind of legislation in a single afternoon?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think it would be very unfortunate if the impression was left that there is not to be some disclosure. It is my understanding from those who are charged with the responsibility, the executive of the political party to which I belong, that there is to be total disclosure. There was some concern, perhaps the type of concern that would not trouble the member, that we are in the midst of a leadership campaign and we might be accused of changing the rules in the middle of the game. We do happen to think rules are important to go by.

It may well be, at some time when this contest is over and there is a new administration in place, that the administration might want to give consideration to this and a number of other matters. At the moment, however, this party has made its position quite clear in discussions. There will be disclosure of totals and there will be a certain discipline with respect to expenses. This was seen as a consensus on the basis of the particular point different people were at in so far as their subscription campaigns were concerned.

Mr. Speaker: I am going to revert to the member for Renfrew North because the minister of whom he wants to ask a question has appeared.

Mr. Conway: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The second leadoff question on this side will be put by my very capable colleague the member for St. Catharines.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. How does the minister square his statement made in St. Catharines outside of the secret meeting that was held behind closed doors, which the minister says will never happen again, when he said, "The quality of drinking water in Ontario is second to none in the world," with the most recent horror story that has leaked out to the New York Times about the Niagara River?

The article states, "More than 1.5 tons of chemicals, many of them toxic, are spilling into the Niagara River each day." Does the minister have enough chlorine and other treatment in his water treatment plants in Ontario to halt the effect of 250 different chemicals that have been identified in both the Niagara River and the Lake Ontario system?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I can understand the member's dilemma over this question. It is a serious concern of mine that the most recent New York state landfill site is suspected to be leaking some toxic chemicals.

First, I want the member to know that the report which was prematurely released or leaked in some fashion to the New York Times was a report of a study that was done by four principal parties; the Environmental Protection Agency in the United States, New York state, the province of Ontario and the federal government.

2:30 p.m.

These four agencies got together with the specific intent of trying to determine the extent of the problem in the Niagara River. We have identified certain problem sites, all of which are located on the American side I might add, and one of them is the one to which the member alludes.

I can only tell him the safeguard we have and I can give him the assurance that the statement I made about the quality of drinking water is correct. I have no difficulty in drinking it on a continuous basis here in Ontario. I drank water on Friday out of Welland, out of Niagara, and out of St. Catharines within the last week and I stand here relatively healthy, I want to assure the member, without any problems.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you very much.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Could I finish?

Mr. Speaker: No, I think we will have a supplementary.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the committee that came forward with this study identified more than 250 poisons, including polychlorinated biphenyls, Mirex, benzines, DDT, mercury and dioxin in the Niagara River and in the Lake Ontario ecosystem, and in view of the fact that safety standards have been established for fewer than 100 of them, could the minister inform the House when he is going to ensure there are safety standards for the other 150 poisons?

Could he tell us what immediate action he is going to take to comply with the recommendation in this report, one of 24 recommendations to the government, that says, "Ontario should assess the need to upgrade pretreatment programs for industries and sewage plants discharging effluent into the Niagara River system"? The minister would also know that five different areas in Ontario were identified as problem spots.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am so appreciative of the member raising this question, because I made the trip to the great riding of Niagara on Friday to present a cheque for well over \$1 million to the Niagara regional council for the construction of the most advanced, state of the art sewage treatment plant in all of Ontario.

With respect to the other part of the question, we are taking steps to safeguard the health of the community here in Ontario by doing the very thing we have undertaken in Niagara already, in connection with the million dollars we are spending over a three-year period, to put in an advanced treatment system for study purposes to determine whether or not we can remove certain trace contaminants from the drinking water supply. The member does not know, neither do I, nor do the health experts, what level of safety some of those contaminants can reach.

Mr. Bradley: That is the problem, we do not know.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: All right. The reality is, however, that they are of such a limited trace background level—

Mr. Bradley: There should not be any in there.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: We do not live in a Utopia, and I can tell the member again, the drinking water quality in Ontario is second to none in the world.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, very briefly, I am getting two very different messages from the minister. He is saying that the water quality is

second to none, that there is nothing to worry about, he drinks tons of it every day, apparently without any long-lasting effects we can blame on the water, and so on.

How does he square that with the statement he made recently to the *Toronto Star*, when the news about Occidental Chemical Corp. and the leaking of the dump first came out, where he said—and I think I am quoting fairly—he was not in a position to guarantee the future water quality in Lake Ontario because of the very serious situation in New York state?

How does the minister square those two things? If the situation in New York state is serious—and surely now we all recognize that it is—how can he come into the House and say there is no problem? Surely there must be a problem.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am unhappy about the fact there are some toxics, certainly at very low background levels, leaching from New York state sites into the raw water supply in Ontario, from the Niagara River ultimately into Lake Ontario.

The reason I can give the member the assurance is very simply because we monitor and sample the water from all of the treatment plants in Ontario on a regular basis. Based on the World Health Organization's standards for drinking water quality, the water we drink here in Ontario that is treated by our plants in our own jurisdiction, gives us no cause for alarm or any cause for concern, based on today's technology and today's information.

I can say with every assurance that we are meeting those standards on a regular basis. However, in direct answer to the member's question, if there is a continuation of the leachate moving into the Niagara River, if there is an increase in the contaminants, I do not know what the situation is going to be tomorrow, which is why we have a concern about it and why we have intervened directly with New York state on these particular issues. I want the member to know we are building in every safeguard we possibly can on the Canadian side of the border to ensure that the drinking water supply is safe and healthy in our jurisdiction.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, is it not the truth of the matter that the great Niagara provides a flow of 200,000 cubic feet per second and what we are really using it for is to dilute these chemicals—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Kerrio: I think that is a very good question, Mr. Speaker. Is it not a fact that this is all that is happening at Niagara and that the minister is just waiting until the pollutants reach

the stage at which he is going to have to do something, and very quickly? When is he going to stop using the Niagara to dilute these chemicals?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I find it quite offensive when the member suggests in his question that we on the Canadian side are using the Niagara to dilute chemicals. In fact, he knows full well that the problem is on the New York state side and has absolutely nothing to do with our jurisdiction.

We have handled the environmental responsibilities on our side of the Niagara River, I think, in a most competent, able and favourable fashion, but I cannot say the same for some of our friends across the river. We are not using the Niagara to dilute chemicals; somebody else may be.

CREDIT RATING

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. Can he tell me whether there is a document entitled Economic and Financial Outlook, Province of Ontario, Ministry of Treasury and Economics, dated August 24, 1984, and marked "For internal use only"? Can he tell me whether he took this document to New York and whether it describes Ontario's fiscal strategy not only for 1983-84 but also for 1984-85 and 1985-86 and contains a trend outlook for 1986-87 and 1987-88?

Does this document exist? Were its contents discussed at the Standard and Poor's meetings, which we understand took place on the evening of August 27 and during the day on August 28?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I do not know what document the honourable member is referring to. I can only tell him it is likely that at this moment there would be probably half a dozen versions of an estimate of trends for the next five years in my ministry and each one of them would have quite different views on what the next four or five years are likely to be.

Mr. Rae: My question relates specifically to the Treasurer's statements last week and earlier, that what happened in New York was a purely retrospective discussion. These documents deal not with the past but with the future and I want to ask the Treasurer whether this particular document was one that he and the Premier relied on in any way in their discussions in New York.

Did they specifically discuss 1984-85 and 1985-86? If they did not discuss them on the basis of this document, how is it that Standard and Poor's was able to make a judgement call with respect to those years unless these matters were

discussed specifically with the rating agency in New York?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member wants to send those documents over here, I will try to remember whether they were even in my briefcase when I went to New York.

I can only tell him that whatever documents are in the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, as I said last week and the week before, the discussion was essentially one that looked at the past. Of course, there were discussions of what we and various people, even the Conference Board of Canada, expected for the next couple of years in Ontario. Those are economic projections that are always of interest. But in essence the discussion was as I related last week.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer will be aware that in its own right the province really borrows very little in foreign markets. Last year it borrowed some money, but generally the internal deficit is financed through internal borrowing from pension funds. The minister will be aware of that. He will also be aware the principal reason he feels the credit rating has to be kept intact is because of the Ontario Hydro borrowings, which essentially do go to the United States.

Did the Treasurer give any assurances about holding the Hydro borrowings down? Did he discuss the future of Ontario Hydro and how much would have to be borrowed over the next period of time? Would the minister not agree with me that Hydro is the real culprit in putting pressure on our credit rating?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I would not agree.

Mr. Rae: I find it ironic, and I will put it this way, that the Treasurer's memory would be so loose and faulty on this matter when, with respect to almost any other matter I have discussed with him in this House for the last two years, his memory is a matter of universal renown. It is like a steel trap. On this issue, the steel trap has suddenly turned to mush. That is an intriguing fact which many of us will have questions in our minds about for some time to come.

In a very hazy and foggy past, all of six weeks or two months ago, on August 27 and 28, discussions took place. If those discussions focused on the future, if they focused on particular projections which the Treasurer had in his briefcase, if they were part and parcel of the discussions that took place in New York dealing with the future of our social programs, why is it that when answering questions in this House last

week the Treasurer chose to tell the House that the discussions were retrospective and were essentially an historical exercise?

Why is it the Treasurer chose to tell the House that, when there is increasing evidence that the discussions dealt with the future of this province, with future budgets, with the Treasurer's spending plans, with his spending priorities, and with what it is he intends to do with the future of this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me say the member's kind overestimation of my memory in the past is much appreciated, but it has neither been as good in the past as he suggests nor as bad in the recent past as he suggests.

I have not had a faulty or vague memory over what occurred in New York. I have been quite clear about what occurred there. If the member is asking me if I know whether a document which he has not yet shown me was part of what I used in New York, obviously I cannot tell him any more than he could tell me if I held up a document now and asked him whether he used it at a meeting last August, if it sounded like a document he used. He would not know either and I do not know. If he wants to send it over, I would be pleased to comment on it.

I want to go back, once again, to this whole retrospective situation. Standard and Poor's is mainly assessing the performance of borrowers, like any bank managers would, for international lenders. They are not bank managers. They are making those kinds of judgements for people who are lending their money. When one goes into a bank manager, in any credit situation, almost all the discussion relates to past performance. "How have you done? Have you been able to repay your obligations? Are you too highly levered? Are you borrowing too much? Have you shown an incapacity to repay debt? Is interest eating up more and more of your income?"

That is why these discussions have to, if one pauses to think about it, be almost retrospective. When one finishes that—

Mr. McClellan: Almost entirely.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, they are retrospective. When one finishes that, there is, in this circumstance, a general discussion: "What are the circumstances in Canada? Are you expecting the economy to improve? The Conference Board said it would not; your projections say it will."

The fundamental decision is based upon the provable past performance of any borrower. On that standing alone, as the member can read in Standard and Poor's own analysis, they say our

ratios are very good and our borrowing is relatively low. Their own assessment of that is what counts and they have given us a triple-A rating based on that.

OTTAWA SEWAGE SYSTEM

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question to the Minister of the Environment who is canvassing the back bench. It is a very specific, local question. It concerns the national capital, the city of Ottawa.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Great spot.

Mr. Rae: I thought you were going in for a Hamilton question.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed. Never mind the interjections.

Mr. Breaugh: What is this? Remember Albert Day?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: Is the Minister of the Environment aware that in the great city of Ottawa there is a serious problem with the sewage system? Does he realize something like 47 kilometres of it are so debilitated and decrepit that the city works department sits this very hour in nervous concern about its imminent collapse?

Is the minister aware that after 41 years of Progressive—

Mr. Shymko: Is this what you want as an emergency debate?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Conway: Is the minister aware that after 41 years and two months of Progressive Conservative rule, much of the municipal sewage system in Ottawa is so decrepit that it is likely to collapse at any moment? Is he aware that the cost of rehabilitation in immediate terms is \$23 million?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Put your question, please, quickly.

Mr. Conway: To thousands of home owners and people who use the public beaches of Ottawa, this is no laughing matter. I ask the minister to say what he intends to do to give provincial leadership to this very serious situation with respect to the rehabilitation of the Ottawa sewage system.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member may be concerned about the anticipated collapse of the Ottawa sewage system. However, I sat here with a certain degree of nervousness worrying about the member

himself being in imminent danger of collapsing during the course of that address.

At any rate, I listened with keen interest to the member's concerns. I would bring to his attention the fact that my predecessor undertook one of the most ambitious separation programs in the entire province involving provincial participation. My predecessor, the honourable gentleman who sits to my left here, undertook that program to assist the municipality to carry out the very kind of programs the member is talking about.

With the length of time the member has spent in this House and he being a keen observer of the political process, I think he should know that municipal sewers are just that—a municipal responsibility. I think he should address his concerns to the Ottawa-Carleton council and perhaps it can respond.

Mr. Conway: The minister will know that the beaches in Ottawa continue to be polluted every summer and this has a very deleterious impact on the local tourist economy. He should know from talking to his own officials and his colleagues in the national capital area that this is a very serious matter.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Conway: The municipal government needs additional help above and beyond what the local ratepayers can offer. What undertakings and personal leadership is this minister prepared to offer in addressing the very serious concerns that affect Ottawa home owners and businesses in this matter? They are seriously disadvantaged by this. Surely he intends to do something.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I have already done something on that question. I have met with representatives of the regional council to hear their views as to the amount of work and the extent of the program they wish to undertake. We are looking at—

Mr. Bradley: Where is the money?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The money went into that member's region and into the region of his colleague who sits directly behind him. There were a great number of regions of this province that were well looked after with respect to the programs of this government.

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: That is right—the member's region as well. Let us not forget that it is also the region represented most adequately by the Deputy Premier.

Mr. Speaker: Now to the question.

2:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am quite prepared to sit down with the Ottawa-Carleton regional council to discuss the implementation of another phase of the program that was put into place some time ago. I am not prepared to indicate at this time that we will put up the same percentage of money as we did in a very special agreement entered into by the three levels of government in the past, an arrangement between the federal government, the province and the local municipality. However, we will participate at least at the same level that all the other communities in Ontario enjoy at the moment. I give the member that undertaking today.

If any special assistance is required, we will entertain proposals from the Ottawa-Carleton council with respect to the degree of that additional assistance, but I am not going to give the member an undertaking at this moment that it is justified or needed, or that a special case for additional assistance can be made when I have to look at a program that is applicable right across the province and is applied fairly to all jurisdictions across the province.

Mr. Conway: Will the minister give an undertaking to this House that eastern Ontario will not be ignored as it is too often by the government?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Renfrew North please resume his seat.

MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. Now that at least 70 municipalities in northern Ontario have passed resolutions endorsing the principle of Ontario health insurance plan coverage for medically necessary travel, will he and his ministry drop their mindless and blind opposition to resolution 16? Will he change the OHIP regulations so that equality of access to health care will become a reality for all the people in this province who happen to live 200 miles away from specialist medical facilities?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I point out to the honourable member that my position on this subject has not been, is not now, and shall not be one that is to be fairly described as "mindless."

I have tried to point out to the member and some of his colleagues on a number of occasions that the issue is not simply as he sees and describes it; his is perhaps a simplistic view and obviously an easy one for which to get endorse-

ment. If I can translate the principle he espouses momentarily into the principle of eliminating any barriers to access to health care, I certainly endorse it. Whether the barriers are as he describes them is something we do not agree on.

The priority has been and will remain for me and for the staff of the ministry under my direction, as long as I am here, that of ensuring direct access to services wherever possible by residents of northern Ontario in their own communities. I can tell him I have under active consideration with the staff of the ministry at the moment—I directed this some time ago and it is now coming to fruition—some new initiatives that will relate to that question of accessibility of services in smaller communities, in northern Ontario in particular, and I intend to pursue that.

In conjunction with that, where there is evidence of any barrier to access existing, I have not closed my mind to making some provision for assistance with access to that service, if it should involve transportation, where the service is not available in the north. I will look at it in the context of the new initiative.

However, as long as I am Minister of Health I will never agree to a program that could consume as much as \$50 million or more health care dollars a year in the form of subsidy for transportation that in some cases is of questionable necessity. It has to be a more selective approach than the member has described in his resolution, and that is what I am now trying to wrestle with.

Mr. Foulds: I would like to ask the minister if his ministry has done any cost-benefit studies since his nonreply to me on June 26 with regard to that matter? How much does his ministry now estimate the cost of medically necessary travel to be? It appears to have dropped about \$25 million in the past three months.

Is he willing to make access to health care for specialist facilities, either in the north or by travel from the north to specialist locations, a top priority for increases in his budget in the coming year in the processes that he is now beginning before the court of appeal of the Premier?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not sure to what the honourable member was intending to refer in his last comment. I will not deal with that unless he wants to elaborate more fully on it.

Mr. Stokes: Cabinet approval.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Whether that will be the highest priority remains to be seen. I shall always have it as a very high priority to try to continue to

expand the services available to the citizens of northern Ontario. I refuse to shift my priorities to place transportation alone as the top priority to the detriment of services provided in northern Ontario, because I will not accept the colonialist mentality with respect to northern Ontario that the member is advancing.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I would like to make two points. First, it is the minister and the ministry that have the colonialist mentality when they ship doctors out to northern Ontario. Second, the minister wants clarification of "court of appeal"—

Mr. Speaker: Order. Would the honourable member please resume his seat.

Mr. Foulds: "Court of appeal" is the term the Treasurer used when he was talking about establishing the budgetary process in the estimates.

Mr. Rotenberg: That is not a point of privilege.

Mr. Speaker: It was not a point I recognized. Order. Will the member please resume his seat.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the minister in his response draws attention to the fact that some of the services for which he refuses to pay might be of questionable medical value. I am sure he—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not what he said at all.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the honourable member is going to quote me, he should do it accurately.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: I thought the minister was making—

Mr. Speaker: Would the honourable member just place his question and never mind arguing with the minister.

Mr. Sweeney: Would the minister not agree those services for which cancer societies in northern Ontario are spending between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of their total funds are needed and valuable? If he would, would he agree to reimburse those cancer societies for the transportation costs they have covered, which more properly belong to this ministry's expenses?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, as I understand it, at the present time we do reimburse the cancer societies for those services. There may be a very few and rare exceptions to that, but generally speaking we do reimburse them for those services.

CONTRACT FOR RAILS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Labour will recall that last Friday we had a discussion in this House of how Algoma Steel in his home town lost a contract of some \$15 million or more a year annually. The contract was plucked from Algoma for political reasons by his federal cousins and given to a plant in Cape Breton.

Is the minister fully apprised of the reasons Algoma was punished and why he and the federal minister from his own home town were not consulted in that discussion? Are my facts right that this will probably cost in the order of 125 person-years of employment annually, and indeed this lost contract now threatens the modernization of the mill at Algoma?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member may be jumping to some conclusions. There has been a meeting arranged for Wednesday, November 7, at 3:30 p.m. The following people will be in attendance: the Honourable Elmer MacKay, the Solicitor General of Canada and the member for Central Nova, the Honourable James Kelleher, Minister for International Trade, the Honourable Donald Mazankowski, Minister of Transport for Canada, Mr. Maurice LeClair, the president of Canadian National Railway, and possibly other CN officials. They will discuss at that time the implications for Algoma Steel of the Sydney Steel Corp. announcement.

3 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Has the minister determined why he was not consulted and why this decision was made unilaterally when it has such an effect not only on Sault Ste. Marie but on the province at large? Who is speaking for Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I informed the member on Friday that I was not advised. I also indicated that I was not embarrassed about it. I have taken the necessary steps to make sure that will not happen again.

Let me tell the member something that occurred over the lunch hour. I was sought out at a luncheon today by my counterpart in the federal government, the Honourable Flora MacDonald. She wanted to get in touch with me prior to the throne speech today, so I would be aware of what was in the throne speech relative to my ministry. As far as I am concerned, this is a courtesy that has never been extended to a provincial Minister of Labour before, or any other minister for that matter. I think it is very definitely an illustration of a step in the right direction.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, does the minister agree that the announcement made last week was an overt attempt to blackmail CP Rail into also placing orders with Sysco? The Honourable Mr. MacKay is quoted as saying, "If CP is going to purchase all its rail from Algoma, then CN will purchase all its rail from Sysco." If that is the case, does the minister think that is an appropriate way of attempting to protect jobs in Cape Breton, especially when he is aware of the serious unemployment rate we have in Sault Ste. Marie and Algoma district?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, if I am reminded once more by the member for Algoma, who is an expert on everything, that I am not aware of the unemployment circumstances in Sault Ste. Marie—after all, I happen to have been born and brought up there. He only came into the community a few years ago.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) will resume his seat.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: There is a meeting scheduled for Wednesday. I am very optimistic about the outcome of that meeting. I will be happy to answer any questions I am asked after that meeting.

Mr. Wildman: As a matter of privilege, Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that I have lived about half my life in the Algoma district.

WATER POLLUTANTS

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment. I think he is aware of a pollution problem in the Timmins area concerning the Kam-Kotia Mines that were closed in 1972. Since then the Ministry of the Environment has been monitoring the situation in which pollutants are going from the tailings area into the water system.

Can he tell us what he has done, when his ministry has known about it since 1971-72, to prevent the flow of the heavy metals, the arsenic and the acids into that watershed? Who is responsible for looking after that pollution now? Is it the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of the Environment or someone in the private sector?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the member does point out a very significant problem in the Timmins area. The Kam-Kotia Mines are of concern to my ministry. For this reason, we do sample and monitor the effluent that comes out of those tailings on a regular basis. I can appreciate

it is unsightly. It does not look very good, but it is not an environmental hazard at this time.

I want to assure the member that if additional steps are required to be taken by my ministry, they will be, but I do not know that I can necessarily give him an undertaking that we will move in there and clean up the entire area. I say that because of the very large amount of money that would be required to do that. My estimate for a complete site cleanup would probably range in the order of \$10 million or more. When it is that expensive, we look for other alternatives.

But I do want to associate myself with the concerns registered by the honourable member, and we will continue to watch that site very carefully.

Mr. Laughren: I am not at all pleased with the minister's answer.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Laughren: Is it not true that since April 1983 the minister has been aware of the increasing levels of contaminants going into that river system? Is it not true that a consultant's report said to him, "It is conservative to note that all waste discharges emanating from the Kam-Kotia property are qualitatively well in excess of ministry guidelines"?

If that is true, how can the minister sit there and say he is not concerned about the problem? I do not understand the minister's attitude in this case. Surely it is a serious problem.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I did not deny there is a serious problem in the area. I am simply indicating to the honourable member that one of the alternatives is a complete site cleanup, which is extremely costly. The company that was involved in this particular area is no longer there and has effectively gone bankrupt, as I understand it, so we cannot extricate the dollars necessary from the company in question.

The alternative at this point—and I am not saying this is the answer I will give for infinity—is simply that at the moment we will continue to monitor the problem to determine whether it reaches a level where further action is absolutely essential or necessary. If so, we will then take that action; this assurance I can give the member.

MOTIONS

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that substitutions be made on the standing and select committees as follows: on the standing committee on administration of justice, Mr. Conway for Mr. Breithaupt, Mr. Elston to be added; on the standing

committee on general government, Mr. O'Neil for Mr. McKessock; on the standing committee on members' services, Mr. Newman for Mr. Elston; on the standing committee on procedural affairs, Mr. G. I. Miller for Mr. Epp; on the standing committee on public accounts, Mr. Elston for Mr. T. P. Reid, Mr. Epp to be added; on the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments, Mr. O'Neil for Mr. Sweeney; on the standing committee on resources development, Mr. Reed for Mr. Mancini, Mr. McKessock for Mr. Sweeney; and on the select committee on the Ombudsman, Mr. Ruston for Mr. Breithaupt.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Swart moved, seconded by Ms. Bryden, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside to debate a matter of urgent public importance, namely, the application before the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission from CNCP Telecommunications to deregulate Bell Canada's long-distance telephone service and the failure of the Ontario government to take a stand at the CRTC hearings against the deregulation proposal, which will dramatically increase local telephone rates, provide no saving on long-distance rates to citizens outside the seven major cities, create public confusion in service provisions and cause major layoffs of Bell's employees.

Mr. Speaker: I would advise all honourable members that the motion by the member for Welland-Thorold was indeed received in my office in the prescribed time. I would also like to point out, if I may, that in the preparation of these motions—and I find this one somewhat similar—they tend to go on and become part of the debate.

Interjection.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest that in this particular one it would have been advisable to put a period after the word "service."

Having said that, I am prepared to listen for up to five minutes to the honourable member and other members why they think the ordinary business of the House should be set aside.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, with regard to your admonition, you have been known to rule resolutions out of order on occasion and, therefore, it is important to have some substance in them. However, you are not doing that in this

case. I know that to fulfil the requirement for an emergency debate, two criteria must be met. First, it must be a matter of public importance. Second, it must be a matter of urgency.

In the first regard, there is no question of the tremendous public importance of the deregulation issue before us in this debate. This was made clear in the study done for several provinces, including Ontario, by Peat Marwick and Partners, entitled *Impacts of Competition in Message Toll Telephone Services*. It was released on October 5 of this year.

Figures in it and extrapolated from it show that every telephone user in this province would be tremendously affected by the proposal. It also shows the likely results. Because long-distance rates now massively subsidize local rates, at least theoretically, if long-distance rates are reduced to cover only their cost, which could be the result, local rates in Ontario will increase by 115 per cent.

This would mean more than \$1 billion added annually to the local rates of customers in this province. If they drop by only 40 per cent, there would be a 65 per cent increase in local rates, or \$500 million more taken out of payments by customers through the local rates.

For instance, a resident of Toronto now pays \$12.60. This will go up to \$27.03 or \$20.82, depending on whether it is 115 per cent or 65 per cent. In North Bay it will go up from \$7.40 to \$15.91 or \$12.21.

Second, if Bell Canada loses only 20 per cent of its business to competitors, it would increase local rates to the point where 2,000 Ontarians in the low-income group could no longer afford to have a telephone. This is all extrapolated from this report which was partially paid for by the Ontario government.

It also shows that only seven major cities would get the benefit of the lower long-distance rates. Everybody else in this province and other provinces would be subsidizing the long-distance users in the big city. It shows that one per cent of telephone customers in the United States make 30 per cent of the long-distance calls.

This means the large corporations are basically the ones that use long-distance. Thus, they shift costs from corporations to small businesses and residential customers.

Many more workers will be laid off by Bell Canada and foreign-imported equipment may replace that produced in Canada.

The urgency of this issue is that the hearings by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission will likely conclude at

the end of next week. Ontario has not yet taken a stand or even submitted a brief.

I know they can probably make representation to the federal government after these hearings are over. They may even be able to take part in the final arguments. However, if this government is concerned about the end results of deregulation and the tremendous increase in the local rates in this province, the most effective way is to make a submission to the hearing. It will have to be done by next week. This does not give much time. It should make a submission, as the New Democratic Party has done in Manitoba and the New Democratic Party has done federally to the CRTC in opposition to these rate hikes.

I suggest this matter does conform to the criteria for the debate. I suggest we should have a debate and make it clear that this Legislature is telling this government in no uncertain terms it wants to intervene in a major way at the current hearings and oppose the application for deregulation.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, we in the Liberal opposition think this would be a worthwhile subject for a debate this afternoon. Whether it falls into the category of emergency really depends on the way one looks at the course of these hearings.

In a question put to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) in this House on October 23, 1984, my colleague the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), asked the minister what the stand of the government of Ontario would be in these hearings that pertain to the application by CNCP Telecommunications to apply a competing long-distance service in seven major Canadian cities and in the parallel hearings by Bell Canada and BC Tel to have a restructuring of their long-distance rates in response to this particular proposal.

As a matter of fact, I noticed the most significant part of the question from the Leader of the Opposition came when he asked the minister if he would put his considerable weight behind the position that would safeguard our consumers in Ontario. My leader brought to the attention of the House at that time that the rebalancing of long-distance rates might end up over a period of five years with an increase of from 200 to 400 per cent in rates payable by the regular day-to-day users of telephone service in Ontario.

The other thing we found quite startling, which was in the newspapers about 10 days ago, was the position taken by one of the groups appearing at the hearings. It was estimated that up to 400,000 people in the provinces of Ontario

and Quebec at the lower end of the income spectrum would have to give up their regular telephone service because the so-called rebalancing would make the service so expensive it would no longer be possible for these projected 400,000 people. A large group of them would be in Ontario, and that must very definitely concern us.

I think we must be fair and realize the minister's response made it clear, quoting from page 3455 of Hansard when this matter was raised a week ago: "This is all the matter of a very lengthy and complicated hearing which is going on at the CRTC. My people are there and will be there for the balance of that hearing."

He did not make it clear what position his people would be taking. It sounded as if they were having a watching brief only, but the time in the hearings when the provinces can put forward a position is yet to come. That is why a debate this afternoon in the House might assist the minister to establish what he considers to be the best position to take in the best interests of Ontario.

We hope, therefore, the ordinary business will be set aside so we can continue with this.

The other matter is that the business for the House this afternoon is simply the completion of the estimates of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics. The Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) himself has indicated rather obliquely that he is postponing a rather momentous personal decision until these estimates are completed. I think probably it would be in the best interests of the people of Ontario if we did away with that aspect of business and had the CRTC debate. It would give the Treasurer a little longer to consider this momentous decision that is pressing in on him.

My own feeling is that he must be seriously considering abandoning his prospects for leadership and must be about to shove the House leader of the New Democratic Party away from his desk, so he may then contemplate switching his support to one of the other ministers, let us say the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller). The two of them have a similar approach to public matters and it seems silly that they would be in a position to divide that sort of support as they go into a leadership convention.

3:20 p.m.

I certainly hope all sides will be able to support the motion put forward by the NDP Agriculture and Food critic calling for the setting aside of our normal business so we can debate this matter and give the Minister of Transportation and Communications the benefit of our best advice as he

approaches the time in the CRTC hearings when he is going to have to come down on one side of the fence or the other.

We suggest that the only sensible alternative for him would be to come down strongly in favour of the telephone users in Ontario who do not want their long-distance services fragmented.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I will comment very briefly on the motion before the House today to set aside the ordinary business to deal with an important and urgent matter. I will not argue with my colleagues that the matter is important, but I have to argue I cannot see any urgency to the matter. I intended to read into the record part of my answer to questions last week, but the former leader of the Liberal Party has already performed that duty for me, so I will not repeat it.

I have stated there are very lengthy hearings being held by the CRTC into the application by CNCP Telecommunications for authority to enter the long-distance field in competition with Bell Canada and the interprovincial telephone system. We have been attending those hearings and have had the research and studies carried out to which honourable members have referred. Our turn to make our presentation to the CRTC has not yet come.

It is not a question of not being there or not being able or ready to make our presentation. There have been many other participants. At many of these hearings it has been my approach to have my people listen to all the arguments and then as one of the major participants, to make a major submission towards the end of the hearing. I believe the people from British Columbia are to make their presentation within the next few days. I am not quite sure. I heard one person say this is British Columbia week at the hearing and we are to follow.

Before the hearing winds up, whenever that may be, my ministry representatives will be making a very strong appearance before the CRTC to deal with this matter. Following that, within the 24-day or 28-day period after the oral submissions conclude, there is a 28-day period for written submissions. We also intend to make a written submission.

Taking into consideration that our turn to make a submission has not come up on the agenda, I do not see why my colleagues on the other side of the House can say this is an emergency, that we are not doing anything or that we are not appearing before the commission and not representing the people of Ontario. We will do so as

soon as we get the opportunity, and that will be within the next few days when our position appears on the slate.

Mr. Speaker: Having listened very attentively to the points put forward by honourable members, I find the motion is in order. Is it the pleasure of the House to proceed?

3:50 p.m.

The House divided on whether the debate should proceed, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Bradley, Breaugh, Bryden, Conway, Cooke, Di Santo, Edighoffer, Foulds, Laughren, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, Nixon, O'Neil, Rae, Ruston, Samis, Spensieri, Stokes, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Barlow, Brandt, Cousens, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gregory, Grossman, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk, McCaffrey, McCague, Mitchell, Norton, Pollock, Ramsay, Rotenberg, Scrivener, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Taylor, J. A., Timbrell, Treleaven, Walker, Watson, Welch, Wells, Yakabuski.

Ayes 27; nays 40.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF TREASURY AND ECONOMICS (concluded)

On vote 1001, ministry administration program; item 1, main office.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I want to continue the line of questioning I began this afternoon and indicate to the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) that I asked him questions about a document which, as I understand it, is entitled Economic and Financial Outlook, Province of Ontario, Ministry of Treasury and Economics, dated August 24, 1984, and marked "For internal use only."

I would tell the Treasurer I do not have a copy of this document; I have simply been advised such a document exists. It has a title and that title is the way by which we have tried to identify this document.

It describes Ontario's fiscal strategy over the next three years and goes on to describe

something called a "trend outlook" for 1986-87 and 1987-88, showing net cash requirements of \$1.2 billion for each of those years. It shows net cash requirements being reduced from \$2,289,000,000 in 1983-84 to \$1.7 billion in 1984-85 and \$1.2 billion in 1985-86. This was called "a plan."

I think the existence of such a document is a matter of some importance and I think it is legitimate for us to ask the Treasurer whether such a document exists. If it exists, would the Treasurer be prepared to table it in the Legislature today? It is this document that will enable us to find exactly what the plans of the government are.

The implications of the stories by Rosemary Spiers and Claire Hoy with respect to what transpired in New York, plus the very conflicting answers we have received from the Treasurer, are that the future was discussed in New York and that certain commitments were given and certain understandings shared. Those decisions and that sharing of a common world view have very real implications for future budgets in this province, for the level of social spending and for the commitment to education, hospitals, road construction and environmental infrastructure. One could go on and on.

I would like to ask the Treasurer whether that document exists. Is he prepared to table that document in the House, because it contains information that apparently has been shared with people in New York, but has not been shared with this House? I will leave that as my first question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I cannot tell the member whether a document I have not seen, the document he is referring to, exists. How can I do that? If he wants to send it over, I will have a look at it and tell him whether such a document exists. It is a blindfold test. He is telling me: "I will not show you this document. You cannot see it, but I want you to say if it exists." If he wants to find out, he should send it over.

Mr. Conway: The Treasurer should recognize it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He has tried it before with calendars.

Mr. Rae: Let us be very clear as to what I am asking. Information has been published in the Toronto Star by Rosemary Spiers indicating an overall commitment to reduction of the deficit to \$1.2 billion by 1985-86. That figure was repeated by the source that outlined the general contents of this document.

I am asking the Treasurer, and I am genuinely asking a question to which I would like a genuine answer, whether such a document exists, whether these figures were discussed with the people in New York and whether he is prepared to table the document today.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I cannot undertake to produce a document that the member is talking about which I have not seen. If the member wants to ask me to table a document, first, I have to know what he is talking about.

Mr. Nixon: What kind of game is this?

Mr. Conway: Are you denying its existence?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Why does he not send over the document? What can I say? There are millions of documents in my ministry.

If the question is, "Has the figure \$1.2 billion for next year and ensuing years been talked about in the ministry?" then the answer to that is, patently, yes. Where does the figure come from? As I have said before, it comes from the fact that I have asked my staff to indicate what number next year, based on current interest rates, would be necessary to stabilize the growth of public debt interest. That is the general area of the deficit necessary to ensure public debt interest stabilizes next year.

As I said in the House earlier, that figure could go up or down based on interest rates prevailing next year and a number of other variables. However, in essence, that is where the \$1.2-billion figure comes from. I have made that clear right from day one.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer has not at all. His story has changed more often than anybody can count.

Mr. Nixon: Careful.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is not true.

Mr. Rae: It certainly has changed. With reference to that particular number, the \$1.2 billion, the Treasurer indicated on October 25, 1984, which is the first time we discussed this matter in the House, "Secondly, there were no assurances taken to bring the budget down to any numbers such as were suggested in what the member said." I said, "I did not suggest any numbers." The Treasurer said, "There were some numbers in the article."

Therefore, the Treasurer was referring to that \$1.2-billion figure in the article. Today he is saying, "Yes, the \$1.2-billion figure was discussed."

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I did not say that.
4 p.m.

Mr. Rae: What did you say?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me be very precise. I said before I went to New York and I said at New York that it was our intention to stabilize the growth of public debt interest. Nothing could be clearer. I have asked my staff to tell me what deficit level would be required to produce the stabilization of public debt interest. The answer, given what we know today, is that it would be in the \$1.2-billion range. What more can I tell the member? That is where the figure comes from.

Mr. Rae: Let us be perfectly clear. The Treasurer is saying today—unless I have missed part of the saga, and I do not think I have—that \$1.2 billion was the figure he discussed with his Treasury officials. He says now that is the specific target he has set out and that he discussed in New York. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I want to be clear because the member is not going to go around suggesting that this story changes. If he missed the saga, I would invite him to chat with members of the media who asked me about the \$1.2-billion figure some time ago. I said exactly the same thing then.

Inside this government I have made it very clear that this Treasurer intends to stabilize the growth of public debt interest. Whatever numbers are necessary to produce that are hard to predict definitively right now. Based upon expectations on interest rates and a number of other things, Treasury staff members have indicated that figure is \$1.2 billion.

Mr. Rae: To stabilize the payment of public interest at what level?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: At its current level. It is just over 12 per cent. In any event, our goal is to make sure it does not continue to grow, that it ceases being one of the high growth areas of government expenditure.

Mr. Nixon: His New York friends want it below 12. He is going to stabilize it at 11.9.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Perhaps that member has had a secret visit to New York that I do not know about. I want to be clear on another point, lest the previous member continues to suggest that all this was negotiated in New York.

He may not have been paying attention to the saga, as he calls it, but those were public pronouncements made by this Treasurer long before August. They were made by me before the budget. So there is nothing new about stabilizing the growth of public debt interest. The calculation could have been done at any time—not in New York, not in August. It could have been

done in May, June or when I had my prebudget statement almost a year ago. There was nothing uncertain about what I said. I said we have to stop the growth of public debt interest.

Any grade-schooler with a calculator—maybe I would not go that far—any member of the research office of the leader of the third party could have sat down with a calculator and figured out the figure would likely be about \$1.2 billion. There is no reason I should shirk, and I certainly do not intend to shirk, from saying quite clearly that deficit reduction is a major priority with this Treasurer. I would be happy if we could get it down as far as \$1.2 billion this coming year. I have no reason to run away from that suggestion—indeed, I am proud of it.

If the member is asking me whether my intention is to get down to \$1.2 billion, my intention is to get down as far as I can. If I can hit \$1.2 billion in the coming year, I will be quite satisfied.

Mr. Rae: The minister says his story does not change, yet in fact it does change. In the House during the week of October 26, he stated that the discussion—I will quote from what he said on October 29:

“As I indicated last week, the entire discussion is retrospective. They look at what has occurred, how good the recovery has been, how good the improvement in the deficit has been, and then decide whether that indicates the province is still worthy of a triple-A credit rating. It is all retrospective. Having done that, they concluded we were quite worthy of the triple-A credit rating.”

We now have an admission by the Treasurer that not only was there a discussion about the future but the discussion focused on a particular dollar figure with respect to the future. We have the statement that Standard and Poor's was looking at budgets for 1985 and 1986. We have yet to have a straightforward denial by the Treasurer that they reached that conclusion on the basis of certain understandings on certain general shared points of view which he apparently put to that meeting on August 28.

In answer to my questions, his story today is that the discussion was almost entirely retrospective. Now we have the introduction of a new qualifier, that something was almost retrospective, whereas a very short time ago, on October 29, the entire discussion was retrospective. The \$1.2-billion figure, which he now says has been part of his policy for some time, has not been a figure I have heard coming from his lips in this Legislature prior to today. I am glad he has now

shared that figure and the basis on which he reached it. We will be glad to do the calculations he has referred to.

We are entitled to ask the Treasurer a very simple question. What additional discussions did he have with respect to 1986, and what kinds of figures are we talking about for 1986-87 and 1987-88?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member wants to take from what I said the suggestion that we gave a commitment with regard to the deficit level for next year, let alone as extreme a suggestion as for 1986-87 or 1987-88, then he has not been paying attention. He has not read all those comments very carefully.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is playing games. "Commitment" is a word I have not used. I have used the words "understandings" and "shared points of view." That is what I have used and what I have referred to. Do not start playing word games with me. We want to talk the same language here. I am asking a specific question with respect to what he discussed about future spending and future revenue patterns in this province. I am asking what kind of documents he had down there. He has refused to answer that question. He has not indicated anything; he played dumb on that.

I am now asking him specifically, were there any discussions with respect to debt levels and anything else in 1986-87 or 1987-88?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I have given the member all the information I have. I have answered these questions too many times. The questions can continue to be put, but they have all been put before and they have all been answered before. With respect, I am not going to tolerate any suggestion from the leader of the third party that there is any game-playing when he keeps hiding a little document in his desk and asks whether I have a copy of it, and he will not stand up and send it over to find out whether I have it.

If he wants to talk about games and wants to get at the facts, as he says, and he really wants to get to the bottom of all this, why does he not send over the piece of paper he says he has and let me have a look at it? Then perhaps I can help him figure his way through what he has found to be too complicated to figure out. Let us not get into word-playing or game-playing. If he wants to be serious, he should send over the document he alleges he has and I will be able to say whether I have seen it before.

Mr. Rae: Can the Treasurer indicate why his answer today is different from the one he gave last week? Today he said the discussion was

almost entirely retrospective, and he admits now there were discussions with respect to this \$1.2-billion figure for next year. Why is that answer different from the one he gave last week?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member reads Standard and Poor's analysis where it confirms the triple-A rating, he will see that what I said is correct. It is an analysis of the past, and how we do it. If the member wants to go so far as to say Standard and Poor's does not ask about the economic circumstance and what the conference board and others think about the future, then, yes, it asked us about what we thought the economy was going to do in the future.

If he is asking me whether they asked about a prospective view or undertaking in regard to what the government intends to do, they did not have to ask because I had indicated all the time that my previous budget policy, as outlined long before my visit to New York, was to stabilize the growth of public debt interest. That is all I can tell him.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Rae: The Treasurer is changing the question in order to give a different answer. It is an old rhetorical trick, but I do not think it is going to fool very many people.

My next question has to do with the impact of changing the triple-A rating. Could the Treasurer tell us, since today is the day he released the financial report dated September 30, what the cost of losing an A would be? A figure of \$75 million has been floating around in the press. Can the Treasurer confirm that?

It is my understanding, and I am sincerely asking for a clarification, that whatever change there was in our credit rating it would not affect our borrowings from the Canada pension plan. The plan itself sets the interest rate and charges an interest rate that is the same to whatever province is borrowing from it.

It is also my understanding that the teachers' superannuation fund would be affected. Can the Treasurer tell us to what extent, on an annual basis, our nonpublic borrowing from the TSF would be affected and what the cost would be? Since there are no public-borrowing Treasury-issued bills, debenture issues, at the moment, could the Treasurer confirm, in terms of the actual cost to Ontario, the borrowing from the teachers' superannuation fund that would actually be affected?

Can he tell us whether that is true and what the cost is in dollars of the impact of any change in our credit rating on an annual basis? Can he also tell us what the impact would be in dollars on

Ontario Hydro in terms of any future notes it would issue from the date the credit rating was changed—say it was September 5? Can he give us the answers to those questions?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: First, the member is right about the CPP borrowing. Second, with regard to Hydro—

Mr. Rae: No, the TSF.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The same.

Mr. Rae: It will not be affected?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I think that is correct, except indirectly.

With regard to Hydro, looking at up to a quarter of a point on Hydro's borrowing over a 30-year period, it is difficult to put a definitive figure on it because one would have to know what Hydro's borrowing was going to be and how much was going to be outstanding for 30 years.

On TSF, I have the precise information. The TSF impact would be affected because Hydro bond rates are used to establish market rate and it is the market rate that is reflected in the rate we pay TSF. So it would be the same impact.

Mr. Rae: I want a specific answer to the question of how much of the teachers' superannuation fund is renewed every year. Are we talking about a renewal of the total amount at the new rate or are we talking about only a certain amount of additional borrowing that is going to be renewed at a new rate? How long do the rates last? What would the actual cost of increase be for a quarter-point reduction in terms of the TSF? Calculating in terms of what Ontario Hydro's borrowing patterns have been and what its projections are for 1985-86, what would the real impact be in real dollars on an annual basis?

I want to know because we are being asked to buy a pig in a poke. We are being told what an awful, horrendous thing a drop of a quarter of a point would be. The Treasurer has now told us it would not affect the CPP and its effect on the TSF would only be marginal. What are we talking about in real dollars?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The TSF moneys are long-term and so it is the annual amount that is borrowed from TSF that would be affected.

Mr. Rae: How much is that? Let me make it very clear to the Treasurer that we have had this incredible performance over how vitally important it is to protect the credit rating, and he has protected it at an enormous cost. The cost is the projected decline in the deficit by some \$800 million in one year, from roughly \$2 billion to \$1.2 billion as his target. That is an \$800-million

shift in expenditures, an enormous shift in expenditures and in the overall budgetary pattern.

The Treasurer is standing here and saying, "It is not going to cost the Canada pension plan and our borrowing from it a nickel." He does not have a figure for the teachers' superannuation fund; we are already getting different interpretations of what the effect is, and he is giving a nonanswer with respect to Ontario Hydro.

What dollar figure are we actually talking about? What is the price of this triple-A rating? What is it all about in actual dollars? Give us a dollar figure.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member should just think of the question he is asking. He could not pose that question sensibly to any of the people in the public or private sector throughout the world who have a triple-A, double-A or single-A rating and, if he wants a definitive answer, get any answer other than that it is related to interest rates. The answer to that is a quarter of one per cent.

If the member wants an honest, straightforward answer that he can rely on and to which he can attach a dollar value, he will have to tell me, so I can tell him, how much will be borrowed by both the government of Ontario and Ontario Hydro in 1991.

Mr. Rae: I am not asking for 1991.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, but I need that knowledge to answer that question; otherwise the answer to that question, which is a very fair question, is a quarter of one per cent in interest rates.

Let me also say, just so the record is clear, that the reduction of the deficit does not imply a shift in expenditures. As the member saw today with our quarterly finances, we were able to reduce the deficit by another \$200 million without a shift in expenditures. What this means is that, having established our priorities and our spending levels, when increased revenues come in we do not then go out and try to find new ways to spend this money, which we have deemed not to be necessary or appropriate on our first, second and final go-rounds on our allocations.

So there is no shift in expenditures; there is a shift in relationship between our committed expenditures and the deficit level, but there is no shift in expenditures. The member would be misguiding the public if he said that we had chosen, for example, this year to cut or to shift our expenditures in such a way as to reduce the deficit by another \$200 million. What we chose to do was to take our increased revenues and not increase our spending levels.

Mr. Rae: That is again a different answer from the one the Treasurer gave even in his own press release. He says these increases were accommodated by finding offsetting reductions in other areas. Does the Treasurer want me to go over the whole budget for the last two years and show how he has cut back in the environmental field and in the Ministry of Energy? Does he want us to go over all that again?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Go over it now.

Mr. Rae: That is part of the public record; the Treasurer cannot get around it. He cannot tell me he is going to cut his deficit by \$800 million without affecting the overall level of delivery of government programs. He is not that kind of wizard. No government can perform that kind of disappearing act and expect to fool the public about it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: The leader of the third party is suggesting that we cut expenditures in order to reduce the deficit, and if he looks at Ontario Finances he will find out this just is not the case. The fact is that in the areas in which there has been a reduction, for the most part it has been because of a reduced demand from that expected.

4:20 p.m.

We did not take the real demand and then say, "I am sorry, we are not going to hand out the money we committed." Those reductions occurred because there was a lower demand for those programs than anticipated. We did not cut those programs; the expenditure levels were not cut. The point we are making is that where there were increased spending pressures—and there were—there were also important things we continued to do. We increased our commitments, as outlined on page 1, our general welfare assistance and family benefits allowance commitments. It was a major increase.

All we are showing is that all the increases were funded with the savings incurred—not the false efficiencies, not artificial ceilings, but savings incurred on other programs. That is good fiscal and financial management. With respect, it is not cutting programs. It is not artificially cutting off programs in order to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Rae: To go back to my original line of questioning on this score, the Treasurer has told us the Canada pension plan amount is not affected by the change. As I understand it, he has told us the teachers' superannuation fund borrowings were long-term borrowings, so they are not affected by the change.

I have a meeting in a moment in my office with the new chairman of Ontario Hydro, so I will be able to go over with him what the effect would be on Ontario Hydro's pattern of borrowing, since I cannot get the answer from the Treasurer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: TSF is affected.

Mr. Rae: TSF is affected by what dollar amount? Let the Treasurer give us a real dollar amount for 1984-85. We are left with a situation in which the Treasurer does not even know the price of his own Holy Grail.

Mr. Chairman: The Treasurer is on his feet to answer the honourable member.

Mr. Rae: I would have thought he would have the answer on the tip of his tongue.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let the member not be juvenile.

Mr. McClellan: We have been listening to this now for the past 15 years.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member must have been listening to something that addled his mind.

Mr. McClellan: Methinks he is a little cranky this afternoon.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Oh, yes, very little.

Ontario Finances, which we released today, indicates to the members the amount borrowed from TSF. It shows the revised estimate at \$1.03 billion. If the member will take out his abacus and figure a quarter-of-a-percentage-point increase on \$1.03 billion, he will have the answer.

Mr. Rae: Now that we are in estimates, I am asking for all the talent the Treasurer has in his bureaucracy to give us that figure. I cannot believe that in the course of all this discussion that figure would not be readily available, since it is presumably something he surely must have considered overall. What in real, hard terms would it actually cost him to suffer a change in the credit rating for one year?

I would remind him the reviews are annual and, presumably, if one has been downgraded in one year, one can be upgraded in the next. He is asking me to stretch something over 30 years when the credit rating changes every year, according to his own testimony.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We had this credit rating reaffirmed in August. From the date of our budget on, we were confident triple-A rating was there. Therefore, even though it may surprise the member, we do not have in our hip pocket the cost of losing it, because we began last—

Mr. McClellan: It does more than surprise me.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Some members may not approve of this, but as they saw in the memo that went out to the public this year, we start each year's allocations process by saying we are going to keep the triple-A credit rating. Members may think we ought to begin the allocations process another way by discussing the cost of losing it, but I have to tell them that as long as I have been around, that part of the discussion has been determined in the Treasurer's office and in that of the Premier (Mr. Davis).

This year was no exception. We began by saying, "We will keep the credit rating and let us go." I must tell members that figure is not at the tips of our fingers.

Mr. Foulds: I do not believe this. It is incredible.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member may not believe it, but that is why he is still over there.

Mr. Foulds: The Treasurer goes to New York, begs on bended knee to keep the triple-A rating and does not know how much it would cost to lose it. It is quite incredible.

Mr. Chairman: The member for Port Arthur does not have the floor.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member is asking me whether I carry around at the tips of my fingers or have here the precise cost of losing it. I happen to know, and I share it with the members, the cost is a quarter of one per cent on all the borrowings. That is something we think—

Mr. Foulds: How much is the government going to borrow this year?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is right here in this little blue-and-white paper. Just open it up and the member will find it there.

Mr. Foulds: Okay, tell us. Read the little blue-and-white paper.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My staff is doing that calculation for the members. Do they want me to tell them they do not care enough to do the calculation in their offices? Why do the members not treat this seriously?

Mr. Foulds: Let the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies) do it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would match the member for Brantford against the member's entire research office, and I would bet on him.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: This is going to be a shock to the members. I will give it to them in a second. One of the three minions over there called out a moment ago that we could get the

credit rating back in a year. I understand that is highly unlikely. The rating agencies would watch the performance of a jurisdiction through an entire business cycle. That means many years. It is not the sort of thing where one can say, "I think I will take it this year, let it go next year, and then take it back the following year." That is not the way it works. It is an entire business cycle.

Mr. McClellan: We are beginning to understand how it works.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I doubt that.

This is going to surprise the leader of the third party. On \$1 billion worth of borrowing, 0.25 bases points amount to \$2.5 million.

Mr. Foulds: The minister made all that fuss over \$2.5 million.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I bet even the honourable member could have done those numbers. I would not say that about the member for Port Arthur, but the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) could have done that for him.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I have to see the chairman of Ontario Hydro, but I want to indicate that I have just received a message from my research staff saying, "Name the place, name the time and the NDP research/Phil Gillies contest is on."

Mr. Foulds: Any time, any place.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I do not know whether the Treasurer is interested in another topic or not. We could stick on this one for a while longer.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am in your hands.

Mr. Nixon: Is the minister still chairman of the domed stadium committee or has Dr. Ed been given this responsibility?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am still chairman of the Ontario Sports Stadium Corp.

Mr. Nixon: Then the minister is the right person for us to pursue this with a few questions. I am probably a more appropriate person to ask these questions than anyone else in the Legislature since I lay no claim to being a sportsman of the professional type, or even having an interest in it, other than I love this city and I am quite interested in the taxpayers' dollars.

There were some interesting articles written last week when the cognoscenti in the sports world said the chairmanship was about to pass from the Treasurer to the Premier's deputy and that would mean that probably an announcement would be forthcoming, since they did not want

the Treasurer to be burdened with the political fervour of an announcement.

Could the minister indicate to the House and anyone who might be interested what is the status of the evolution of this by way of a decision being reached? Are there special reports being commissioned as to the cost? Is the Treasurer sitting down with sports buffs who do not want a cover on the stadium and do not want baseball played except on natural grass and want ivy growing on the walls and all those things? What is the process as far as we are concerned, or is whether we are going to go for it now rather than later still lying in the crenellations of the Premier's mind?

Mr. McClellan: Maybe it will be at the bottom of the Spadina Expressway.

4:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I should tell the critic for the Liberal Party that I have been subject to much lobbying by the member for Bellwoods to try to get the stadium in his riding. He continues to put that case to me today. If he keeps it up, we will do it.

Mr. Nixon: Does the Treasurer mean he is going to level Parkdale and put the stadium there?

Mr. McClellan: It will be in my riding if it happens soon.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Might I also thank the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) for his continuing interest in my political future.

Mr. Nixon: There is only one debate after this and then he can think seriously about it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I should tell him the estimates are not holding up my final decision or announcement.

Mr. Nixon: Is it just essentially chickenness?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. It is good planning, just as cautious planning has been the hallmark of this administration. It is just as I did with the budget.

Mr. Nixon: The Treasurer was worried about his credit rating.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I did not bring it in until I was quite ready. The same thing will be the case with my political future and, indeed, I continue to have a small family concern.

Mr. Nixon: His dad does not want him to do it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He did not want me to do this. He tried to talk me out of this.

The stadium is not the Premier's concern. I know he is concerned over my candidacy, I hope positively.

Mr. Nixon: He has done several backflips to keep the Treasurer in the race.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: God bless him. That has encouraged us to talk about my stepping down as interim chairman of the stadium corporation.

I had a chat with the Premier about two or three weeks ago. At that time, I indicated to him I thought it was only fair that we ensured the stadium deliberations were not slowed down or impeded by the possibility of my candidacy. There was the fact that the stadium deliberations were now taking quite a great deal of time. I indicated that, if he thought we should continue to move the stadium decision as quickly as possible, then perhaps someone else should chair the corporation.

As much as I have enjoyed the work—and I am very interested in how it turns out—I said he may want to suggest we find someone else as chairman for the next period of time, if I choose to run. I suspect that over the next 90 days, if I choose to run, it will be well known that as of this day I was chairing the stadium corporation. Thus, there will not be much difference if I am there or not in terms of the political impact. We are just concerned about the actual progress of that project.

How is the project going? The Premier indicated—and Lord, we all want to be very careful about the consistency of stories—that when he appointed me to this stadium responsibility he thought it would take until perhaps September of this year. He certainly said no later than the end of this year.

What has happened is this. We have commissioned reports on traffic for the two sites that were not analysed for traffic during the Macaulay committee review.

Mr. Nixon: Can Macaulay not do anything right?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: He is superb and the committee picked a very fine site.

Mr. McClellan: It was the wrong one.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. It still might well be the best site.

Mr. Nixon: I hear it has been inflated recently.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Two sites came in subsequent to the Macaulay report. I should add, in fairness to the Macaulay committee, nothing our corporation has seen or discussed would indicate that its decision was wrong, based upon the two sites proposed to that committee. But two additional sites have now been offered to us.

Mr. McClellan: It was not wrong; it just was not right.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was right.

Two additional sites have come forward—the Coronation Park site and the CN site. So this corporation commissioned studies on traffic for those two sites. In fact, we used the same traffic consultant that had done the work for the Macaulay committee on the other sites. Getting that work done took a period of time.

We then put together a technical committee comprised of two engineers, John Springfield, the well-known and much-respected engineer from the firm of Carruthers and Wallace Ltd. in Toronto, who chaired the committee, and Doug Wright, a former deputy minister, engineer and president of Waterloo University.

Mr. Nixon: Doug Wright?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes.

Mr. Nixon: I thought he was fully employed as president of the university.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I asked Dr. Wright to chair it. He said that because of his employment he would agree to serve on a part-time basis on the committee.

Then we added Murray Beynon, who is a much-respected architect. So we had two engineers and an architect on this committee. They were appointed to analyse the roof proposals. Their initial work was to analyse all the proposals and tell us which ones would open with some certainty, so we did not build a roof that stopped opening in year three. They did that work and concluded about on schedule at the end of August or early September.

Mr. Nixon: Their findings are now public.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Their findings are not yet public.

Mr. Nixon: If I may interject, was there not a story saying that the minister has now been informed by these people that the practicality of an opening dome is assured?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes. They have now told us with some certainty that three or four of the roofs will open. In other words, the engineering feat—

Mr. Nixon: Some certainty?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With certainty. Sorry. I am being so careful with words these days.

Mr. Nixon: Davisitis is getting you.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I hope so.

They have indicated we can now look at four roofs and say with certainty they will all open.

Mr. McClellan: Some of them will.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: At least the models do when I press the button. They will all open reliably whenever we want it.

I must admit we initially thought that, having determined the traffic considerations on the two new sites and having determined that four of the roofs would open in an engineering sense, our job was just about done. When we got into it that deeply, however, we found out there was another major concern. If we opt for any of these retractable roofs, there are certain complications that come with respect to what we get inside that roof, i.e., the baseball stadium, which have to be looked at carefully.

For example, the Blue Jays and others all agree that 40,000 prime seats, that is, between the foul poles, are necessary for a proper major-league stadium. Further, they should preferably be pointed towards second base, as opposed to what we see in some American stadiums where the seats do not point towards second base. Because they try to accommodate football, they have a different focal point for the seats.

Mr. Ruston: See how Tiger Stadium is built and do away with the posts and you will be all right.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is a great stadium. The member is right. Tiger Stadium would be a great model.

Mr. Ruston: It has got to be one of the best.

Mr. Nixon: But they do not play football there, do they?

Mr. Ruston: No.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, they do not, and football is a major problem. That is right.

Let me talk about that as an example of some of the implications of putting on a retractable roof. When we look at the structures necessary to support the roof, we find that flexibility is dramatically reduced in the case of some of those roofs. We do not get 40,000 seats between the foul poles or they may not point towards second base. The sight lines may be less than optimal.

Another problem in some of the proposals is that when the roof is put on there are 40,000 seats between the foul poles all right, but the proponents who have assured us they have 40,000 seats between the foul poles are making certain presumptions based upon the number of exits. Members who may have attended sporting events at the Canadian National Exhibition stadium will know the exits and entrances there are easily the worst in any major sporting arena. They are terrible. From my seats, and I only get

there once or twice a year, on the two or three occasions I have been there—

Mr. Nixon: Private elevator?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. I sit with my people. I sit with the voters.

Mr. Nixon: Don't you get thrown up on quite a bit?

4:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. Anyway, it takes us on a fairly busy evening between 20 to 25 minutes to get out of the stadium. As luck would have it, I was at the last game of the World Series in Tiger Stadium. There was a capacity crowd, but my good friend and I were outside that stadium in four minutes, having waited until the end. There were 52,000 people there and no one had left the stadium. We were outside in four minutes. The whole point was that wherever one sat, one was near an exit.

Therefore, when one puts in enough exits and the proper ramping, one finds out that what looked like 40,000 between the foul poles is 32,000 between the foul poles. That was a level of preciseness and detail we did not intend to get into, but we found we had to once we decided to go with the retractable option.

This has required that we ask our technical group to go out and look at various other stadiums, how they were built and what is called the protocol for those stadiums, such as the number of exits. Width of seats is another issue. It is the same circumstance. There are 40,000 seats between the foul poles if the seats are narrow. There are 32,000 if the seats are more comfortable and wider.

Those are some of the questions that have to be answered before one knows whether this first-class roof is going to have a first-class stadium underneath it. We have asked our experts to go out and look at those things and to come back to us with a protocol of what should go under the roof in the first-class stadium.

We have decided we want to build a first-class stadium, as well as a first-class roof. There may have to be some tradeoffs. We are divising this protocol, putting it before the members of the corporation—the three of us—to allow us to decide whether we want to have X number of exits with Y minutes to get out, versus A number of exits and B number of minutes to get out. It is a major decision to make. If we choose one of them, it will eliminate one or two of the roofs. I have gone a little more deeply into that. That is an indication.

There are two other things we are looking at that have created problems for us and made it more difficult than simply saying, "Let us take the cheapest of the retractable roofs." Several of them give very little sun on the fans because of the height of the structure. Even when it was open, the walls would have to come beside it, leaving very little sun.

A second thing we have to figure out, and have experts working on, is wind. In this kind of circumstance, we have a huge potential for a funnel effect. We have a roof that comes off, stands sweeping in a circular way; we could easily have major wind problems. As we see in Candlestick Park in San Francisco, this can effectively destroy a first-class facility. Those are some of the problems we are noticing.

Mr. Nixon: I know a couple of my colleagues want to ask a question or two. I want to approach it this way. In the selection of a new leader for the federal Progressive Conservative party, there was a public meeting in Toronto. Each one was individually asked if he was in favour of spending federal public funds on this project. Each one, including the successful one, said, "No."

We are now in another situation where at least three—maybe four, maybe more—individuals are seeking the leadership of the Conservative Party of Ontario. I ask this particular possibility as leader whether he feels that public funds should be directed toward the building of a domed stadium. To what degree would he expect our Treasury to participate in this?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No doubt I would be asked that question should I decide to enter this race some time later this year, if not this week. However, so far—

Mr. Nixon: He may or may not vote for it.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: One out of 71 is not bad.

Mr. Nixon: He is with you all the time. He is the guy who got you out of Tiger Stadium in such a hurry.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I sense big momentum in any case. I am a member of this government and our leader has asked me to chair a corporation to analyse what kind of stadium should be built, the price and to try to put together private sector participants. I think that is all predicated on a belief that the cost of the stadium will not be so high as to be unaffordable.

Mr. Nixon: What does that mean? How high is that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We will not know that until we are finished. Second, whatever funds are available, we will be able to look after that through lottery funds, so the taxpayers' dollars in Ontario will not be spent on any stadium in Toronto.

Mr. Nixon: A petty division.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I think it is a fairly important division.

Mr. Nixon: You do not consider those public funds.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I consider them lottery moneys. But I think it is very important in view of the priorities set here and the kinds of triple-A and other discussions we are having that any stadium funding—

Mr. Nixon: You boys have a roomful of dollars you have not distributed lately.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I have a very brief supplementary to the question on the stadium. The Treasurer indicated various factors concerning the light, the number of exits, the time required to get in and out and so on. He made no reference to sound.

My experience in domed stadiums is that sound is a fairly important factor not only for the participants in the contest—if it is football particularly it is awkward—but also, beyond that, from the fans' viewpoint. If the place is not well constructed, the sound can be very annoying to the point where, after you have visited it once or twice, it loses the novelty factor in fan attraction and people stay away in large numbers, preferring to catch it on television.

In his whole list of priorities, where does sound come into the picture? Is it a very expensive consideration? I would assume that for a variety of reasons it might be, given the need for materials within the building that might absorb some of the sound, etc. Can he tell us a little bit about that and about its cost?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, this is a good example of the detail I have found myself involved in during the last few months, and it has taken an exceptional amount of time, far more than we anticipated.

In the pricing of the facility, which is one of our responsibilities, we have discovered there is quite a cost differential in dealing with things such as sound. Of course, the larger the roof you build and the more concrete and steel structures you have, the more you have to cover; and if you are going to deal with the sound, you have to spend a great deal more money. This is the kind of decision we have to be involved in if I am to

report to my leader that X millions of dollars are necessary. Before I can say that, the corporation has to make certain decisions which say, "Yes, we are going to have this roof and this amount of discomfort on the noise side because we cannot afford to cover it or the price will be as follows." That has been one of the things we have looked at.

I should tell the member that we have learned an important amount about, for example, the impact of various types of seating. The majority of the seats, of course, are empty for most games. Out of 60,000 seats the average crowd fills only 25,000 to 30,000, so perhaps half the seats will remain empty. Therefore, the padding, or lack of it, on the seats does a great deal for the sound. Again, that is a great deal of money.

Another thing we found is that things such as the coating on the floors impact on sound, maintenance and a number of other things. We are told that some stadiums had chosen to go with the less-expensive flooring—concrete without a finish on it—in order to save money at the start. They subsequently found they could not clean it and then put on the flooring after a couple of years, so now they have a well-covered, visibly stained, dirty floor.

Those are the kinds of things we are involved in and, as I say, this is one of the reasons I have to indicate to my leader that I may have to give up my responsibilities. If I am to make a proper decision as chairman of this corporation during the next 60 days, it will really take a lot of time to study things such as sound, wind, flooring, the number of seats, seat backs and all that. It is something I did not expect, frankly, when I started; but if we are to do a proper job, we will just have to do that.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, I want to deal with one or two things in this. As a matter of fact, one of the more interesting articles I have read on this is by Brian Headlam in the *Globe and Mail* on October 18. I am sure the minister probably has it in his file. He points out that any kind of roof, retractable or otherwise, precludes the use of natural turf.

One or two answers back the minister said something about, although I cannot quote him exactly, "when we decided on a retractable roof." Has the decision been made that we are going for something such as this?

4:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The members of the corporation have agreed that if we can find a retractable roof proposal that will give us reliability in terms of the roof and a first-class

stadium underneath it, that would be the way we would go go.

Mr. Nixon: A number of people have said to me that it was handled very well politically by the Premier. The argument was not, "Shall we have one?" but "Where shall it go?" That seems to have faded into the background and now we are asking, "Are we going to have a retractable roof or not?" The article I mentioned points out that many injuries associated with sports played on modern playing fields are associated with the artificial turf.

When people go to the ball game here they criticize our stadium for a number of reasons. They say it is the worst in the league and so on. But we do have an American League franchise, we have our team here; and putting everything together under a dome, retractable or not, and ruining the prospect of playing out in the open is not everybody's best answer to the problem.

There is something I read that interested me. "Toronto could damage its reputation by building a domed stadium. There is a growing perception that domes are the resort of second-class cities trying to flex their urban muscles. Certainly, New York and Detroit suffer no pangs of urban inferiority because their ball teams play in open-air parks. And domes tend to create more interest in political football than in the real thing." I thought it was rather well put.

It is pointed out that the Blue Jays only had three games cancelled in 1983 because of bad weather. I know the minister likes to go there in April in his long johns and everything else and sit with his friends, the common men and women of the constituency, in the bad weather. I am not impelled to do that. Presumably, the decision has been made that we are going to use the stadium for both baseball and football. The Blizzard seem to be fairly well at home in Varsity Stadium. The planned use for baseball and football already means we sacrifice many of the things that make a well-constructed, well-planned baseball stadium such a work of art. By going for a covered dome, retractable or otherwise, one also gives up some other things some people, probably not a majority, would find attractive.

Is the minister concerned that his progressive attitudes as a Progressive Conservative may be leading us to the sort of decision that 15 years from now will make him glad it has the Premier's name on it and not his?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: First, the artificial turf argument is one that has raged. Lots of first-class major league facilities have artificial turf. I consider myself to be a fairly knowledgeable and

avid baseball fan, and there is no question in my mind that the game is more pure on the real thing, on natural grass. It is a better game. What we get into here, however, is another important consideration: if one builds an open-air stadium, it will be used 90 days a year for baseball and football, less the cancellations.

If one puts a retractable roof on it, one gets the following additional components. The rainouts would not occur. There are no postponements. One moves the total days of usage from 90 days to perhaps as many as 200 days. That is a very important consideration in the ongoing cost of the facility.

We have done the work. We have analysed the roofs in the other stadiums. It is quite clear one can take it up from about 90 days to perhaps 200—I have seen some with as many as 220. The mathematics of the rent one gets from that and the reduction of ongoing costs is the difference between operating loss and operating surplus—the extra 110 or 120 days. The price one pays for that, among other things, is to sacrifice natural turf for artificial turf. The latter is necessary if one is going to cover the stadium and use it for 110 other events.

I think we can still reach a situation where we can have a first-class baseball stadium—artificial turf notwithstanding—with a retractable roof that is pleasing to the fan and pleasing to the players. If one looks at the American stadiums, many of them are first-class and have artificial turf and the players are happy to play in them.

I want to make the point that we are essentially talking about a financial decision here, both in terms of the number of days and eliminating the operating deficit and turning it into a surplus. Second, most people have reported that where there are roofs—and ours will be retractable—the added business in terms of tourism is not overwhelming but it is significant and it plays a role.

Mr. Nixon: There is as much chance of ours having an operating surplus as there is of a man getting pregnant.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am willing to entertain a wager with the honourable member here, recorded by Hansard, that both of us will still be in this House after one or two years—

Mr. Nixon: I am prepared to undergo this very interesting experiment—

Hon. Mr. Grossman: —and I am willing to bet the member dinner—something modest—that it will make money.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, I would like to get back to the matter that obsesses the Treasurer

and his government, the triple-A rating. The matter that concerns, if not obsesses, us is the unusual trip to New York this past August.

Before I get back to those matters, I wonder if the Treasurer would be so good as to table the poll that was done between May 20, 1982, and March 1983, entitled Attitudes Towards the Economy in Ontario? It was done by Goldfarb and by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics at a cost of \$67,500.

The former member for Rainy River raised the question a number of times. When the question in the Orders and Notices was replied to, it was said it would be up to individual members of the ministries to table these documents. The survey was done some two years ago, and obviously has been gutted of all the valuable information that could be gutted from it. But it was paid for out of the public purse and surely the Treasurer will have no objection to making this poll public now.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There is no problem with releasing that poll; I have been asked for it before. As as the member may be aware, it was done by the Ministry of Treasury and Economics as a co-ordinating and central agency and nine or 10 ministries put questions into it. The last time I was asked about it, I asked staff about it and their indication was they were waiting to hear back from a couple of ministries with regard to the timeliness of releasing the poll, since these would be their questions. Whenever that is done, or if it is done, the member may have it.

5 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: I wonder if we could light a fire under the errant ministries. We should have that information in the public domain. Obviously the Treasurer does not disagree—he agrees with that position. If there are direct ministries we should be asking and the Treasurer wants to indicate which those ministries are, I would be glad to pursue those as assiduously as I know the Treasurer will.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Chairman, I will give him the poll if he promises not to show it to three of my colleagues.

Mr. Foulds: Why?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me indicate for Hansard, that I am just kidding when I say that. As soon as it is ready, everyone can have it.

Mr. Foulds: Seriously, if the Treasurer recognizes his responsibilities, that poll should be made public. I believe it should be made public within the next two weeks so that if there are matters of public interest that should be

debated in this Legislature, it can be done before the House adjourns.

I would like to return to the discrepancies or mysteries that continue about the now-not-so-mysterious visit of the Treasurer and the Premier to the office of Standard and Poor's on August 28, 1984. Can the minister indicate to us how many meetings took place between himself and Standard and Poor's between the tabling of the budget and August 28?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They were in my office on their regular post-budget visit, as was Moody's, I think in the last week in June.

Mr. Foulds: The last week in June. The meeting that was held on June 26 between the Treasurer and Standard and Poor's occurred here.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes.

Mr. Foulds: Can he tell us what the tenor of that meeting was? At that point on June 26, were they seeking any additional information as a result of the budget in May? Were they seeking any reassurance about the size of the deficit?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is an annual event for Standard and Poor's and Moody's. They come on different days. There is a whole day during which they meet with officials and look at Hydro and go over spending fields and trends.

It is broken into one-hour or two-hour sessions and it is the same every year. They talk about how the economy is doing, what is happening at Hydro and those kinds of things. It is fairly standard. I came in at the end of the day and we met for half or three quarters of an hour. There were no large outstanding issues, no areas of concern, no request that we send any further information. I explained the youth programs to them.

Mr. Nixon: That would take quite a while.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Frankly, I cannot remember whether they asked about the—

Mr. Nixon: I bet they were really interested.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: They were. They wrote down details and were going to tell the Governor of New York.

Mr. Nixon: Fascinating.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mario Cuomo asked them to find out about them for him.

That is the kind of thing I did in my session. If the point of the question is, did any big alarm bells go off during my meeting with them on June 26, the answer is no.

Mr. Foulds: To understand the process a bit more, do I understand correctly that Standard and

Poor's send two or three people? They meet with certain segments of the ministry in one-hour blocks. At each of those meetings they discuss different aspects of the budget, as the Treasurer says, Hydro's projected borrowings and the province's projected borrowings from the teachers' superannuation fund and so on. Is that the way it works? Do they look at the expenditure side of the budget as well? I believe they also ask questions.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes. I should clarify for the member that this is more our day, in that we arrange the schedule of activities for them, as people who are interested in ensuring that the credit rating agency understands everything about us. We believe if they understand everything about our financing and our spending, we will keep the rating. So we arrange the day. Standard and Poor's do not say to us, "We want to get into Hydro and we want to get into health care," or any of that stuff.

We put on a day and the point of the day is to show, obviously, our best side. You will not be surprised to know that we try to put the best light on our affairs. The agencies would also tell members they feel they get full and complete disclosure from us, a pretty objective view, on balance of—

Mr. Nixon: Did you take them to Napoleon's at noon?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, we took them downstairs. Lunch in, I am told.

Mr. Foulds: May I ask the minister specifically if, during that day's debates, the ministry made presentations to Standard and Poor's about health, education and social services expenditures?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My assistant deputy minister says, "All retrospective." I think that is fair. Retrospective, and we would discuss trends, that is, whether we are in an uncontrolled circumstance where, with the best of intentions and the best of checks and balances and spending controls, net out, we are in an open-ended, uncontrolled circumstance where we are going to end up spending so much that we are going to have to tax very heavily or run enormous deficits.

The conversation would be much more related to Treasury saying, for example, "Let us show you the education, health and social spending," but we would be saying: "Education bears this relationship to enrolment and it is fairly constant. Health is growing, but not out of line with demographics and below the rate of growth in

most jurisdictions, and it seems to be moderating this year." That sort of thing.

As I said earlier today, spending patterns, mostly reflected on what has been done, are the subject of our discussions. The lenders on whose behalf they are speaking to us would be interested to know if we have opened up a brand-new program where the sky is the limit. They would obviously ask about that.

Mr. Foulds: So it is fair to say that at that meeting you did make presentations to them about the current rate of expenditure on the social services, particularly health, education and community and social services.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would say it was far more—

Mr. Foulds: Not you specifically, but your officials.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, I understand. It was far more a confirmation of the trend from previous years. The only time that kind of specific discussion would come up, because we are in such close contact with them and we see them so often, would be, for example, if we announced a denticare program. Then there would be that kind of specific discussion. They would say: "Here is a new program. I know it only costs \$5 million this year, but is this something you think is going to run up to \$100 million?"

Mr. Foulds: Were there any specific discussions that day about housing programs, or lack thereof?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No.

5:10 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: As I understand it, the next contact was a contact between ministry officials and Standard and Poor's in the first week in August. Is that correct?

Mr. Breaugh: It did not seem like such a devastating question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The answer is that we are in constant contact with them. As we have learned—I want to be very precise so that the member will understand those contacts—any time something of note happens in Canada, whether it is our government or another government, our people are in contact with them. There are ongoing, constant contacts between us and the agency. As I said last week, that serves all of Canada in pretty good stead because we keep them well informed with regard to what is happening. I could almost certainly say that

August was not the next point of contact because we are speaking all the time.

Mr. Foulds: Was there a contact from Standard and Poor's, initiated by Standard and Poor's, to the ministry in the first week of August?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am sorry. I could not say that with certainty. The answer is, I do not think so, because of the number of calls. For example, there will be a contact between us tomorrow, because we speak to them every time Ontario Finances goes out. Ontario Finances went out—I do not know the precise date—in early August, so we would have been in contact with them over that.

Mr. Foulds: My question was, did Standard and Poor's initiate a contact with the minister, either at the end of July or at the beginning of August?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the question is, did Standard and Poor's call and say, "There are big problems here, boys"—

Mr. Foulds: That is not the question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: In that case, the answer is no. Standard and Poor's calls us and we call them often, so it could be that a phone call went from Standard and Poor's to us. That may have been a call relating to any kind of significant Canadian news event. It could have been something said during the federal election campaign by one of the contestants saying he was going to reduce the deficit dramatically. They could have been calling to see whether we had any information that such would likely be dealt with by way of transfer payment reductions. It could have been at the time of any of our foreign borrowing, perhaps not in the United States. It could have been Ontario Finances. It could have been on any number of events.

Mr. Foulds: Specifically, did they initiate a contact at the beginning of August indicating they were at a crucial point in their review process with regard to the triple-A rating and would like to have further discussions with the minister about that?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There was no such specific contact or phone call initiated by them, to my knowledge. Just so we understand, there is such a great series of telephone discussions between my staff and Standard and Poor's, and Moody's, that it could well have been, in the context of any of those discussions, that my staff said to them, "How are you doing on the Canada-wide review?" They likely said, "We are heading towards early September."

Subsequent to that, I presume my staff said to me: "They are coming down to the final lap of the all-Canada review, and it looks like it will be September now. Let us go down and see them." That, I think, is a correct recitation of what happened.

Mr. Foulds: It was very unusual for the minister's staff to say, "Let us go down and see them," in that the former Treasurer, now Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller), never went down to see them. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No.

Mr. Foulds: I am wrong on that point? No.

When did the Treasurer recommend to the Premier that he should perhaps accompany him?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: My staff asked me if I might be available towards the end of the month to go down.

Mr. Foulds: When did they ask?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It was early August.

Mr. Foulds: Early August? Fine.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We discussed it and I said, "It sounds okay." I am not sure which week it was, but the next time I saw the Premier, which I think was at a cabinet meeting, I learned over to him some time during the meeting and said: "I am going down to New York to talk to one of the agencies. I would like you to come. Staff thinks it might be helpful." I said: "I do not think there is any reason for undue concern, but let us not take any chances whatsoever. Let us go. I think we should."

He did not run out of the cabinet room and say: "Miss Anderson, drop everything. I have to go to New York." He puffed on his pipe and thought about it. He heard what I had to say and then we discussed it either the next time I saw him in his office or the next week in cabinet. It was just that level of discussion.

Mr. Foulds: Did the Treasurer meet with Standard and Poor's on the evening of August 27 alone, without the Premier?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Yes. They were kind enough to take me to dinner.

Mr. Foulds: What was discussed at dinner besides the quality of the food? Was the triple-A rating discussed?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The menu, the Mets, the Yankees and the Jets.

The answer is we discussed a lot of things. Quite seriously, if the member is asking what we discussed, we discussed all the New York teams I have mentioned, we discussed the Blue Jays and

the hated Tigers, and we discussed the American election at some length. I think it was just coming up to one of the conventions. Am I wrong? Maybe it was just past the convention.

I have been reminded it was a week before the Canadian election. We discussed the Canadian election at some length. We also did discuss generally the Canada-wide review, what they were thinking of Canada and what were the circumstances with the American municipalities and states.

In any event, that was the time at which I began to understand better Standard and Poor's view of the American states and what the municipalities had done. They were telling me about the kinds of steps they had taken during the recession. That was the kind of dinner we had together.

Mr. Foulds: So the next day the Premier joined the Treasurer at the more formal meeting at Standard and Poor's. What documentation did the Treasurer take into the meeting? Did he take the document that was mentioned by my leader?

Mr. Nixon: You know the one.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I do not know what document the member's leader is talking about.

Mr. Foulds: Did the minister take documentation he had with him to make presentations that indicated what the economic and financial outlook of the province was at that time?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I had my budget, I had Ontario Finances and I had a number of background papers, mostly showing retrospective trends and what had been done.

Mr. Nixon: Did they show that growth was going to be larger?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Would you believe 5.2 per cent?

Mr. Foulds: Will the Treasurer table those background papers?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No.

Mr. Foulds: Is there anything in those background papers that would damage the public credibility of the province of Ontario if they were tabled—not the Treasurer's credibility but that of the public?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Listen, I can reflect back to the Treasury study that came out in 1980-81. I was Minister of Industry and Tourism at the time. One of the Treasury papers was predicting that the Ontario automotive industry would shrink to half or quarter of its size, as would employment. There was quite a discussion

in this House over that paper, which was leaked or brown-bagged to someone.

5:20 p.m.

The then Treasurer indicated quite clearly that was one of a number of predictions on and studies of the Ontario auto industry, and there were dozens like it being done in the economic policy branch, a very effective branch of the ministry. That is why we are so well prepared for a number of eventualities. I would not have it any other way.

There were questions asked about some of our spending patterns. If the member is asking whether in the papers we took, which had a lot of things in them, there were things that could be damaging—it was at that very point, I think while I was in New York, that General Motors announced its massive new investments in Oshawa—then I can only say there were analytical documents there by which a proper administration would be unduly hampered if it thought those documents prepared for its minister were to be handed to Standard and Poor's, were going to see the light of day and prospective investors were going to look over them. That is not the kind of thing I think is prudent.

Mr. Foulds: The Treasurer has just run out the clock, in effect. Were there specific documents prepared for the presentation to Standard and Poor's? If there were, would he make a commitment to table them?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Could the honourable member repeat that?

Mr. Foulds: Were there specific documents to do with a proposed reduction of the deficit prepared for presentation specifically to Standard and Poor's? Would the Treasurer be willing to table them? In other words, would he make available to us and to the people of Ontario the same documentation he made available to Standard and Poor's?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: There were no specific documents of that nature prepared for Standard and Poor's.

Vote 1001 agreed to.

Votes 1002 to 1006, inclusive, agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: This completes consideration of the estimates of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics.

ESTIMATES, OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY PREMIER

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Chairman, it is with a great deal of pleasure I present to the committee the 1984-85 estimates for the Office of the

Deputy Premier. Included in these estimates are those for the Ontario women's directorate and for the Ontario Status of Women Council.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Has the minister a copy to provide to the opposition critics?

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is on its way. I hope it is on its way.

As honourable members know, 1984-85 is the first full year of operation for the directorate, which was created in June 1983 to develop and communicate programs and policies for the women of Ontario. I am sure members will agree, on completion of their examination of the activities of the directorate, that some very real and significant progress has been made on behalf of the women of Ontario.

This is as it should be. We in Ontario must be proud of the leadership role we have assumed historically in providing equal opportunity for women.

For example, Ontario was the first jurisdiction in Canada to recognize the principle of equal pay for equal work and also the first to recognize marriage as an economic partnership in which women are entitled to their share of the assets.

We have continued that kind of leadership during this past year. Members will recall that the importance this government attaches to women's issues was clearly signalled by the prominence given to women's issues in the speech from the throne in March. The extension of civil service pension benefits to government employees, mainly women, working on a regular part-time basis, was announced. In addition, for the first time the provincial budget included a specific statement of additional funding benefitting women.

One of the most important accomplishments of the last several months, since my appointment as Minister responsible for Women's Issues and the formation of the directorate, has been the formulation of goals and objectives, the establishment of priorities—with so much to be done some critical needs must be identified—and the establishment and maintenance of relationships with many individuals and groups outside government.

To that end, I have met, along with the staff of the directorate, with more than 100 organizations representing a multitude of women's concerns and with other important players such as senior business leaders.

There are many very important women's issues. As a result of our consultative process, we have been able to identify six primary areas of

concern. They are the issues to which we have dedicated much effort in the past year. They include affirmative action, family violence, income support, employment-related initiatives, child care and justice-related issues such as the Charter of Rights, family law reform and pornography. I will deal with each in turn.

First, let us take a look at affirmative action. This year marks the 10th anniversary of the government's own affirmative action program, and we are proud of the record of the past 10 years. Since 1974 the number of women in the Ontario public service has increased by nearly four per cent, and the gap between men's and women's average salaries has narrowed by more than five per cent.

This compares favourably to the economy overall where women earn about 63 per cent of what men do. Women's representation in high-paying jobs—I refer to jobs with salaries of \$32,000 a year and up—has increased during this period from 5.1 per cent in 1974 to 16.1 in 1984, during a time when the number of senior positions in the Ontario public service was being reduced.

We have as our goal to increase the representation of women in all classes of occupation to 30 per cent by the year 2000. We reached that in the administrative module this past year, fully 16 years ahead of schedule.

Mr. Epp: Inflation is higher than that.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I should hardly be interjecting here if I were the member. When it comes to affirmative action, how many women members are there in the member's caucus compared to ours?

Mr. Rae: We will see after the next election.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We will take a wager on that.

Three new government-wide objectives have been announced for which ministries will be required to make a special effort. These include an increased number of women in senior management, in technology-related occupations and in law-enforcement-related occupations.

Special mention should be made here of the efforts of Constable Sherry Baker of the Ontario Provincial Police, who has encouraged women to apply for police officer positions. As a result, the number of female applicants to the OPP has increased by an incredible 170 per cent this year.

While we take pride in our own record as an employer, we have put special emphasis this past year on encouraging other employers to follow our lead. To this end, we recently announced the extension of affirmative action to municipalities

and school boards. Very soon I will share my views on this subject with the hospital boards of the province.

In order to help with the implementation of affirmative action among these organizations, I announced in August an affirmative action incentive fund through which resources will be made available on a cost-shared basis for the hiring of an affirmative action co-ordinator and for some of the administrative costs of developing an affirmative action program. Limited funding will also be available to hire a consultant to assess needs and to help in the initial program planning.

I am pleased to say early indications are there is a very high level of interest in our program. We will work together to ensure a much higher level of participation in affirmative action programs by these publicly supported bodies.

I mentioned earlier the consultative process that has been such an important part of our programs. This past summer I personally met with 32 chief executive officers of large Ontario companies and with representatives of 11 business and industry associations.

These were very positive and encouraging meetings. We are aware of several major private sector employers who are currently considering adopting programs to ensure equal employment and advancement opportunities for women. These are in addition to those already recognized for their progressive practices in this regard.

5:30 p.m.

A number of private sector employers have recently contacted the directorate's consultative services branch, bringing the total number of organizations assisted by the branch to 258. We know of 20 other employers who are about to undertake such programs as well.

We are aware there remains some misunderstanding about what affirmative action really means in the province and the benefits that occur as a result of the implementation of these initiatives. To help dispel these misunderstandings, this spring we will launch a public education campaign to raise awareness among the public in general and employers in particular of affirmative action issues. At the same time, a survey of the employers in the province will be conducted to assess the level of affirmative action activity.

Next month I will be announcing Ontario equal opportunity achievement awards to highlight the efforts of some Ontario companies which have demonstrated leadership in providing equal opportunities for their employees.

One of the suggestions from the business leaders I met was that it would be useful and acceptable to ask employers to agree formally to a set of affirmative action principles. We are, therefore, establishing a statement of principles which will be sent to Ontario employers and their associations for such endorsement.

Let me move to what are called employment-related initiatives. It really is axiomatic to say economic equality leads to true social equality. We, therefore, put much effort into what we call employment-related initiatives.

Affirmative action, which I mentioned earlier, is certainly one of our flagship programs, but there are many others. One area of particular emphasis for us this year is small business development. Recent research indicates that small business generated the majority of net new jobs in Canada between 1975 and 1982. Some 45,000 new businesses were registered in 1983-84 alone. Studies have shown women excel at this kind of activity.

A 1978 study of new business startups across Canada indicates that, of the original startups surveyed, 25 per cent of those owned by men succeeded, whereas 47 per cent of those owned by women survived. The conclusion drawn was that businesses started by women exhibit a greater success rate; thus, encouraging women to start small businesses has positive implications for economic growth.

However, a recent Ministry of Industry and Trade survey of new business registrants at the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations indicated that women comprised only 23 per cent of the total number of registrants. The survey underlines the need both to increase the number of women starting new businesses and to encourage women to expand their present businesses from self-employment, where most of them are, to owner-operated businesses.

In order to develop strategies which would address the opportunity identified above and the needs of women as small business owners and potential new women entrepreneurs, the women's directorate held a series of consultations this summer with small business owners, women's business association representatives and consultants to small business owners. The purpose of these meetings was to identify and discuss the most appropriate role for government in encouraging women entrepreneurs.

As a result of these consultations, we are working with the Ministry of Industry and Trade to develop strategies that will assist women entrepreneurs in Ontario.

Training and employment are inextricably linked. Improvements in employment opportunities for women can only be realized through a substantial investment in a comprehensive training program.

The 1984 provincial budget reflected the need for new or increased training initiatives. Four major programs were funded.

A total of \$450 million of the Ontario youth opportunities fund will be invested in youth training and experience.

Also, \$150 million of the Ontario skills fund involves a four-part program to invest in the retraining and upgrading of experienced workers.

There is an increase from \$4 million to \$12 million in the technical upgrading program designed to assist women.

There is \$120 million to help those on social assistance who want to overcome welfare dependency and gain experience, employment and training, in conjunction with \$1.2 million in day care subsidies for single parents on social assistance.

This past year, as members of the committee will know, the directorate evaluated and assessed women's participation in a variety of federal and provincial training programs. We have determined that a basic framework for training exists, but that women's access is still being hampered for a number of reasons.

Some of the stumbling blocks relate to outdated attitudes among employers and counsellors regarding occupations suited for women. Other barriers include inadequate training allowances, lack of bridging or upgrading programs and the absence of necessary support such as child care. The Ontario women's directorate, therefore, is working with our federal counterparts and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities to address these serious problems systematically.

Our efforts have already produced results. In May this year, at the annual meeting of the federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women, I pointed out to the federal minister that, because women received low unemployment insurance benefits, a result of their generally low income and the part-time nature of the jobs many of them hold, their participation in training programs was being hindered.

I recommended that women be allowed to receive the higher of either the federal training allowance or their unemployment insurance benefits while they were receiving training. This

recommendation was accepted and officially approved in August this year.

Many of the other barriers mentioned earlier should be addressed through renegotiation of the federal-provincial training agreement under the National Training Act. In preparation for these negotiations, the directorate developed a discussion paper on the barriers women face in obtaining training and has recommended a number of changes:

1. That the federal government follow Ontario's lead and emphasize bridging and basic upgrading programs;

2. That the definition of nontraditional occupations under the National Training Act be modified in both the institutional and industrial programs. It should match the female share of the labour force, which now stands at 43 per cent. Any occupation where women make up less than 43 per cent would be classified nontraditional;

3. That part-time courses be increased and part-time training receive the same financial support as full-time training;

4. That child care allowances be increased to recognize the real cost;

5. That a special orientation be developed for training guidance teachers and career counsellors. This will ensure they are not relaying a sexist message to students choosing careers and making training choices.

The directorate is also encouraging extensive government involvement in promoting women as candidates for industrial training, apprenticeship and employment. It has recommended that women's employment issues be included as an agenda item at future annual meetings of the federal, provincial and territorial manpower ministers. Thanks to these diligent efforts, this group will, for the first time, look at labour issues from the perspective of women.

Another major thrust of this past year's activities within the framework of employment-related activities has been the emphasis placed on assessing the impact of new technology on women's employment and developing strategies to ensure that women benefit from the new technology and have their fair share of the jobs to be created.

This is particularly critical because the majority of women work in only 20 of the 500 occupational classifications in the Canadian census, primarily in the clerical, sales and service sectors of the economy, and it is in these very sectors that the new technology will have the maximum impact.

A program launched this past year by the Ontario women's directorate is Jobs for the Future: Women, Training and Technology. A series of regional consultations designed to act as a catalyst to stimulate activity in communities across the province was held in six centres in the province.

Representatives from all areas of the community—business, education, industry, labour and special interest groups—were invited to develop strategies for their own communities to ensure that women benefit from new technology jobs. A major conference is scheduled for later this month. I trust members of the committee will find those sessions worthy of some attention and that some of them will attend.

5:40 p.m.

Another initiative undertaken by the Ontario women's directorate is the open doors program. A network of successful women working in nontraditional careers has volunteered to speak to boys and girls in grades 7 and 8 through the school guidance program. They describe how they achieved their success and how they balance their careers and their personal lives. These women act as role models to young girls and boys who are in the midst of making course decisions that will affect their future careers.

The program has captured the imagination of the women of the province and we already have more than 160 women volunteers for the pilot project which is now under way in six provincial centres. The Ontario women's directorate is providing training and information for the volunteers and maintains the register of participants. Interested schools can contact the directorate for a speaker and a number have already done so. The program will, we are sure, help our young people make course choices that will enable them to benefit from the opportunities available in technology-related jobs.

Turning to income support, women face a variety of social and economic circumstances which affect their ability to accumulate an adequate retirement income. Women are often employed by small firms, work part-time or may interrupt their careers for family reasons. As a result, many women do not have extensive pension coverage.

For many women—older women in particular—their wellbeing in retirement may depend on the existence of survivor benefits in their spouses' pension plans. However, some employment pension plans do not offer survivor benefits. This results in a significant drop in a woman's income when her spouse dies. In cases where survivor

pensions are available, the lack of inflation protection has eroded the value of the remaining benefit. This means many women are left to rely on the federal government's income-tested guaranteed income supplement, referred to as GIS, and provincial programs such as the guaranteed annual income system known as Gains.

At the present time, pension assets and credits accrued during a marriage or common-law relationship are not deemed to be family assets and thus subject to division upon marital breakdown. Consequently there is an inconsistent and often inequitable distribution of pension benefits on marriage breakdown.

One area in which the government has made some real progress is with government income transfer programs. Ontario's Gains payments were raised last March so the overall OAS, GIS and Gains singles guarantee will be at least 60 per cent of the income guaranteed to elderly couples. This will increase the income of the single elderly, 80 per cent of whom are women, to a guaranteed basic annual income of more than \$8,000 from \$7,000, and elderly couples will be guaranteed \$13,500.

The current maximum monthly payment for the single elderly is now \$66, up from \$48, and this will rise to \$83 on December 1.

Mr. Wrye: Lord knows why they waited that long.

Hon. Mr. Welch: There is a need for reform—
[Applause]

Hon. Mr. Welch: I had better check that line.

There is a need for reform in both private pension plans and in the Canada pension plan. As members are aware, in April of this year the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) introduced Ontario's pension reform proposals. Representatives of the Ontario women's directorate participated in a government-wide interministerial group to develop these proposals and a statement of the quantitative impact of pension reform proposals on women.

Ontario proposals for key reforms for women in the Canada pension plan are: improved pre- and post-survivor benefits; reduction in the CPP contributing period from 40 to 35 years; division of Canada pension plan credits between spouses when the younger spouse reaches 65; and automatic splitting of CPP credits on marriage breakdown.

Private pension reform proposals that will help women include: inflation protection; earlier vesting and locking-in of pension benefits; improved portability; extension of pension bene-

fits to part-time workers; and mandatory survivor benefits. In both CPP and private pension reform, continuation of survivor benefits on remarriage is proposed by Ontario.

Let me turn to the whole area of family violence. Violence, unfortunately, seems to be part of family life for thousands of women and children and, despite all the efforts of our criminal justice professionals to combat it, the rate of violent crime continues its frightening rise. As a result, special emphasis has been placed on developing responses to this terrible crime rate.

As members know, we appointed a provincial co-ordinator for family violence initiatives within the directorate in November 1983. Steady progress has been made during the last year to educate the public about the crime of wife-battering and to make the public aware of its prevalence in our society.

It is shocking, but it is estimated that one in 10 women who are married or living with a man are battered by their husbands or partners. This would mean that at least 200,000 Ontario women are physically assaulted each year, and these figures, I am reminded, are considered low by those who deal with victims of the crime.

The directorate has undertaken a number of initiatives in conjunction with other ministries to ensure that the complex needs of these victims are being met. The Provincial Secretariat for Justice has commissioned a series of projects to find ways of improving the services of the criminal justice system to battered women. The design phase of these projects is now complete; the study phase will begin later this month. This research should allow for appropriate responses to the special needs of battered native, immigrant and rural women.

The Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) has asked police forces to keep facts and figures on family violence. To make it easier to collate these data, a standardized form is being developed with the input of a number of government ministries. The Ontario Provincial Police is eager to begin using the form and we hope other police forces will show similar support for this new process of the collection of information.

While research is going on, a number of dramatic measures have begun. This government has provided more than \$8 million in new funding this year alone to assist in the expansion of shelter services and emergency assistance for battered women and children. We are very concerned about the special needs of victims of family violence in the often isolated communities

of northern Ontario. To address this concern, family resource centres are being developed in a number of northern communities. As well, funding has been allocated for crisis telephone lines and we are developing a number of safe-home systems in the north.

Throughout the province we are working towards a more effective response to domestic assault calls. The Solicitor General issued a directive in 1982 urging police to react in a sensitive and prompt manner to these calls, to investigate all incidents of domestic violence and to lay charges where facts and circumstances warrant. This directive was reissued and reinforced this past summer.

Police are laying charges against men who batter women they live with. By making it a police charge as opposed to the woman's charge, the batterer cannot blame his prosecution on the woman. In addition, the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has advised crown attorneys to prosecute wife-battering cases vigorously.

To further assist the victim, the Attorney General has designated more than 50 crown attorneys as domestic assault prosecutors. They, too, are encouraged to prosecute where circumstances warrant and have received special training to sensitize them to the complex problems facing battered women in the criminal justice system.

This training was provided through the combined experience of the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Ministry of the Solicitor General, in conjunction with the office of the Deputy Premier and the Justice secretariat. These specially trained crown attorneys will pass on their expertise to their colleagues in all regions and counties in the province.

To complement the services for battered women that will be provided by the crown attorneys, the Attorney General has proposed the establishment of a victim assistants' program. These assistants will provide liaison among the police, crown attorneys, witnesses and defence attorneys. They will work closely with victims to help them understand the criminal justice process.

Because of the wide range of programs needed to address this complex social issue, the co-ordinator of family violence initiatives has established a steering committee consisting of representatives of 13 ministries. Each ministry is contributing to the success of the program within its policy and resources framework.

The physical abuse of women will really not subside until there is greater understanding of the

true nature and, indeed, the extent of family violence and of the penalties offenders face. One of the most powerful resources we have at our disposal is to ensure that wife-battering is brought out into the open and is publicly condemned in the media.

5:50 p.m.

Therefore, the Ontario women's directorate has recently launched an extensive media campaign under the heading, "Break the Silence." Posters are being distributed in French and English across the province; women who were victims of wife assault are telling their story on radio, and a brochure with helpful information is now available. We will be publishing brochures in a number of languages, and we are also developing specialized literature for those who deal in a professional capacity with battered women and their children.

The response to the campaign has been tremendous. Numerous radio, television and newspaper interviews immediately followed the launching of the campaign. Considerable interest has been expressed and more and more people are becoming aware of the extent of the problem. We have already received letters requesting assistance and information. I see this campaign as the first step, to be followed by an even more stepped-up campaign at the beginning of the year.

Two of six regional consultations on family violence, designed to match regional priorities with government initiatives, have already been held in Kingston and Sault Ste. Marie. Both have been extremely successful with respect to community participation. We are planning to hold four more consultations in Sarnia, Barrie, Thunder Bay and Kitchener-Waterloo.

We now turn to the area of child care. The reality today is that women are entering and staying in the work force in increasing numbers. In 1982, 43 per cent of the work force in Ontario were women and, by the year 2000, we believe women will comprise half the work force of the province. Fully 72 per cent of women between the ages of 20 and 44 are in the work force of Ontario. In 1981, one out of every two mothers with a child under three was a wage earner.

The changing face of the work force and new family lifestyles have dramatically altered the need for child care. The problem, however, is that the design and capacity of our existing child care system has not changed at a similar rate. We are concerned with the availability, the affordability, the quality and the co-ordination of child care services.

Extensive consultation inside and outside the government, including a survey of public perceptions, has indicated that child care is a priority issue facing women today. A number of activities are under way to provide both short- and long-term solutions to the existing child care dilemma, as follows:

First, the speech from the throne announced a review of the accessibility and quality of child care. The review will be internal to government involving 12 ministries in addition to the Ontario women's directorate. Interim recommendations are expected by the end of the year.

Second, Ontario co-hosted and took a lead role on child care at the meetings of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the status of women, held in May 1984 at Niagara-on-the-Lake, where it was agreed in principle to initiate a federal-provincial working group on child care that will focus on the financing of child care. The working group is now under way and will report back to the ministers at their annual meeting in May 1985.

Third, the provincial budget of May 16, 1984, provided an additional \$4.8 million for 1,500 more full-time subsidized spaces to assist municipalities with waiting lists of eligible families.

Fourth, as announced by the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) on May 28, 1984, the province intends to develop new rural child care resource centres to provide support and information to parents and informal care providers.

Fifth, in addition, the province will be providing assistance in the development of seven new work place child care centres in selected areas across the province, and will take steps to encourage employers to offer their employees assistance with their child care needs.

Sixth, the standing committee on social development held hearings throughout the month of September on the Day Nurseries Act and is now preparing a report.

Mr. Wrye: Hear, hear. You will not like it.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It will be the voice of the committee.

We turn to justice-related initiatives. There are three major areas of concern that fall under the heading of justice-related initiatives: family law reform, pornography and the Charter of Rights. Each of these is a sensitive area and the directorate has put much effort the past year into consulting with groups both in government and in the community.

In December 1982 the Attorney General called for submissions from the legal profession on the

whole question of family law reform, and, in particular, the division of assets.

Accordingly, in the past year, the Ontario women's directorate consulted with a number of family law practitioners to ascertain their views on the splitting of family and nonfamily assets, support orders and mediation. We have reported all their recommendations to the Attorney General, and the directorate staff has had input into proposed amendments to the Family Law Reform Act which we hope will be put before this House shortly. We have also made recommendations for amendments to the Change of Name Act.

The violent and degrading depiction of women and the exploitation of children in the media are recognized as a very serious social problem. We have expressed our concerns to the Attorney General, to the Solicitor General, particularly to Project P representatives, and to the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie).

Directorate representatives attended the International Conference of Film Regulators this fall at the request of the Ontario Board of Censors and we have had continuing discussions with the board.

Directorate staff had direct input into the Solicitor General's new publication, *Ontario Women: Crimeproofing—It's a Way of Life*.

I join with my colleagues, the Attorney General and the Solicitor General, in calling for public education on media violence, particularly because it is women who tend to be the victims of that violence.

In April 1985 the equality sections of the Charter of Rights come into effect. All governments in Canada were given three years to review their statutes for possible conflict with these equality provisions.

We have been working closely with women's legal groups, for example, the Charter of Rights education fund, to disseminate information on the meaning of the equality sections. We have also had discussions with our federal and provincial counterparts. The Charter of Rights was on the agenda of the federal-provincial-territorial meeting of ministers responsible for the status of women, which Ontario co-hosted this past spring.

Mr. Chairman, these are six very important areas of concern and I am looking forward to our discussion in this committee. You can appreciate the work of the directorate in the six areas I have summarized.

To strengthen our work in these areas, I am pleased to announce a grants program of \$240,000 for 1984-85 to support community initiatives in these six major areas of directorate activity and, in particular, projects related to community information and education on the equality provisions of the Charter of Rights.

We would particularly welcome grant applications for projects on the subject of women and technology, projects which would help us ensure that women benefit from technological change, and we would encourage submissions from community-based nonprofit organizations, particularly those serving immigrant women, the elderly, rural women and women in the north.

Other government achievements and programs of particular benefit to women which do not fall within the framework of the six critical areas, but which are none the less important, include:

A comprehensive study on rural women conducted by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and a conference for rural women co-sponsored by the women's directorate in May 1984;

The establishment of a regional sexual assault centre at Toronto's Women's College Hospital with funding through the Attorney General and the Ministry of Health;

Mandatory career counselling for grade 7 and 8 students, beginning in September 1984, at the direction of my colleague the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson);

A competition sponsored by the directorate for a book and film aimed at improving the image of women and encouraging young girls to consider all career options. The film has been commissioned and will be released for use in schools and community centres in 1985;

The Ontario women's directorate conducts an active and extensive communications program with the women of Ontario. Almost half a million publications on subjects of importance to women are distributed annually. A resource centre and film lending service are also maintained. A public inquiry centre is currently being set up to handle the thousands of telephone inquiries received by directorate staff.

I have been able to give only a brief overview of the many areas of activity over the past year. I will conclude by saying we believe we have prepared an excellent foundation for activity in future years, through consultation and through careful preparation of groundwork, so we can look forward in confidence to an even brighter future in the name of justice, fairness and equity.

Mr. Chairman: Being six o'clock, perhaps I should recognize the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) who will lead off at the subsequent sitting of the committee.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee reported certain resolutions and progress.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, November 6, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 6, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I have heard with some alarm there is a secret cabal of the cabinet and a cabinet directive not to discuss issues of great import to the future of this province. Indeed, there has been a conspiracy by this government to gag the various players who are aspiring to the sacred responsibility of being the leader of that party and thereby the Premier of this province.

We have seen occasions before in this country when there have been these secret kinds of agreements, as admitted, for example, by the federal Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, one Pat Carney, who agreed before the last federal election to a secret agreement with various Conservative energy ministers not to discuss the pricing of energy during that campaign. We have some reason to believe we will be betrayed in the not-too-distant future by that secret agreement.

Now we have evidence, admitted, I gather, by no less a person than the present Premier (Mr. Davis) that there has been a conspiracy not to discuss in the leadership campaign the issues of bilingualism, rent control, separate school funding and the government's investment in Suncor. All those are contentious issues that have a great impact on the future of this country.

What I am saying is that our privileges in the opposition have been abused by this secret agreement. It effectively mugs us, prevents us from asking questions as well as gags the people in your own party and denies them free and full debate. They are asking their party to buy a pig in a poke, to buy the great unknown. They are thereby asking the people of this province, who are deprived of that same kind of full public discussion, to buy some unknown commodity.

Mr. Speaker, I would assume you would find this whole secret agreement offensive in the extreme and that you would use your good offices to try to persuade the government to make sure the people of the Conservative Party and the people of this province understand what they are

buying when they buy the next leader of that party.

I believe this kind of secret agreement by cabinet is the most offensive display of the practice of democracy that is possible, when they are aspiring to elect the next Premier of this province, and I believe you have a responsibility in that regard, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: I would have to say I do not know anything about any secret agreement and, even if I did, it would be beyond my authority and jurisdiction to do anything about it anyway.

I would just like to point out to you that the points you made, good as they may be, nevertheless hardly form a point of privilege.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the Ontario Council of Regents is continuing to seek a negotiated settlement with the union representing teaching staff at the province's 22 colleges of applied arts and technology, who went on strike on October 17, 1984.

Since that time, staff from the Ministry of Colleges and Universities and from the 22 colleges have been working together to address issues of concern to students. These will continue to be assessed on an ongoing basis until the strike ends. However, I should like members of the House and certainly students in this province to be aware of the situation at this time.

Information provided by the colleges indicates that currently all full-time programs can be rescheduled and completed this year. To accomplish this, it will be necessary to extend classes beyond previously scheduled completion dates, but financial assistance programs will be modified and extended as necessary for students in such programs.

Students will be notified as soon as possible if future developments result in the need for a significant extension to complete programs of instruction or if it is necessary to cancel programs. If this occurs, full tuition-fee refunds will be provided on request to students who cannot accommodate the modified schedules and to students in cancelled programs. No academic

penalty will be recorded on transcripts. Similar provisions will be made for part-time students.

Federally sponsored students should contact their local Canada Employment Centre counselor for information concerning training allowances, but I would like to say we have received the most unusual and overwhelming support from the staff of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission in trying to meet the concerns of the federally sponsored students within the college system. It is my understanding that they will be pleased to deal on an individual basis with each of those students, but that they are doing their very best to ensure their continuing maintenance during the dispute.

I would urge all students not to become discouraged and I would urge them to make every effort to continue their studies once this strike is settled.

2:10 p.m.

ORAL QUESTIONS

SUNCOR

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, my first question is to the Minister of Industry and Trade, as the one who is responsible for industrial policy in this province as well as one who aspires to be the Premier of this province.

What is the minister's position today on Suncor? Has he changed his position? What will he do with Suncor, that \$650-million oil company of which we now proudly own 25 per cent? What will his position be if he becomes the leader of that party? Is he going to keep it? Is he going to sell it? Or is he going to stand up then and admit it was a horrible mistake? What is his position now and what will it be then?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I would think that was not a question directed at my ministry and I will not comment on it.

Mr. Peterson: The minister is so chatty and charming when it suits his purpose. Here is a man who aspires to lead.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: We have spent \$650 million on 25 per cent of that oil company. He is aware the taxpayers of this province are out of pocket, after some two and a half or almost three years of ownership, close to \$225 million in interest paid. I ask the minister, as one who is going to try to lead this province and one who wants to make all the important decisions, what is he going to do with it? Is he going to keep it? Is he going to sell it? Is he going to be the honourable person I know he is and stand up and say it was a terrible

mistake? Is he going to say he was against it at the time? Is he is going to fudge his position now because he aspires to the leadership but get rid of it later? Which is it?

Hon. F. S. Miller: I do not know how the supplementary leads from my response, except to say I have, and I am much luckier than the Leader of the Opposition, an opportunity to sit in the cabinet of this province. I have an opportunity to offer my point of view on any policy coming before the government of this province.

I have learned one thing, and I hope the member's party may learn it one day too, and that is that once a policy position is taken, we on this side defend it. We have done that for years. It has been one of the reasons for our success. Our disagreements are private, not public, like those of the member opposite.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, apparently there are a lot of things about the Tory party that are private that should be public.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Is it true there is some kind of understanding among the various leadership hopefuls, if I may use that term in its loosest sense, with respect to issues that are controversial, for example, Suncor, official bilingualism, rent control, just to mention some? Has there been any agreement of any kind among the hopefuls? Does that offer an explanation as to why the minister is remaining silent on the questions we are putting to him today?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I said this morning at a press conference that there were certain policy matters of this province that were to be maintained because they were the policies of this province. We have an understanding, as I see it, that they will be maintained, and I am proud to maintain them. I think that question will have to be asked of others.

Mr. Peterson: This is an extremely important question, not just for now but for the future.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Is the minister saying that, assuming he will be the next leader of that party, the next Premier, he would be bound by previous decisions? Would he change his mind? Does he not feel, as the honourable gentleman that I know he is, that he has an obligation to make his feelings, his thoughts and his policy options known, not only to Progressive Conservatives who will vote for him or his colleagues in that race, but also to the people of this province? Surely there is a fundamental question of honour and integrity of the process at stake here. I would

like to know the minister's opinion on those matters as one who aspires to that high trust.

Hon. F. S. Miller: I am sure the Leader of the Opposition would. The fact is that, where policies are in place and are policies of this government, they are the policies of the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the ministers of cabinet and I do defend those policies.

As for the second part of his question, would those policies be carried on by me or any of my other candidates for that office, I have every right, as any other potential new leader would have, to review any policy, to change any policy, when I have the authority to do so.

Mr. Peterson: So the Tories are going to buy a surprise package. They will take the nicest person and will get what they find afterwards. That is a strange way to run a party and a democracy.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: It is not just a party, it is the government, and it has certain other responsibilities or it will not be the government for very much longer.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education on this critical matter she addressed in vague generalities today. Frankly, her remarks take us not very much closer to any real understanding of her contingency plans.

What particular offer was put forward by the Council of Regents? What are the specifics of this new offer? What is the state of the negotiations now? Is the minister expecting a quick resolution?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I cannot present to the honourable member the precise terms of the offer. It is my understanding the offer specifically dealt with finding mechanisms to ensure work load is not intolerable for any member of faculty within any of the colleges.

I cannot recall the precise details because I have not seen them on paper; I am simply aware of the framework of the offer. It is there, it has been presented and, I think, it is being responded to by the union. I believe those negotiations are going on this afternoon. I am always optimistic and I am hopeful, but I do not know whether I can suggest there will be an immediate and positive response.

Mr. Peterson: How can the minister say the offer is a reasonable and innovative way of dealing with the dispute if she does not even know what it is? She stands up again supporting an offer, the specifics of which she does not understand.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Yet, she says it is reasonable, implying that anybody who does not take it is unreasonable. Surely she has just fouled up the negotiations again. Surely she is becoming the issue in this situation.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: That needs a little more rehearsal. It did not look very natural.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the Leader of the Opposition injured his finger, I would be pleased to look after it for nothing. I will not even ask for his Ontario health insurance plan number.

The member asked for details. I cannot provide those details because I do not have a copy of the offer. I do know it developed a mechanism for ensuring there would not be an intolerable work load for any member of faculty. The mechanism for dealing with concerns will not be as long and cumbersome as going directly to a grievance procedure. It appeared to be a very reasonable kind of framework for finding a solution. I do believe it is reasonable and I hope it will be seen to be such by the members of the union who are negotiating.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the least the minister could do is send the leader of the Liberal Party an extra bill.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No bill at all.

Mr. Rae: You are all heart.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: The minister will know that a couple of days ago a news blackout with respect to the negotiations was agreed to by all the parties. In today's newspapers, in particular I think in the Toronto Star, we read a full account by the minister that an offer has been put and the nature of the offer. Now she is discussing that offer on the floor of the Legislature.

I ask the minister, is there or is there not a news blackout? Does she not think that as a minister of the crown the least she could do at this stage of the game, having done all that she has done so far, would be to observe a period of silence for a couple of days in order to let the parties reach a settlement? Does she not think that would be wise?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is a very interesting suggestion and I would be delighted to accommodate the leader of the third party. Will he please suggest that the same kind of procedure might be directed to the Leader of the Opposition?

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Has the minister instructed the Council of Regents to address the work load issue? Has she given any signs of her own good faith by saying, "We will put some of the money accumulated through the strike on the table to address that question"? Has she made any conciliatory gestures in the so-called reasonable and innovative offer that has been made? What leadership has she taken in trying to solve that impasse at the table with money?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I sincerely hope the position that has been taken is conciliatory. However, I remind the member that there has not been and will not be a windfall. The money that, as he says, is saved on a daily basis will be expended within the system to ensure the students do not lose their academic year. It is certainly not a windfall and it is not additional money that could be dedicated to the kind of activity he is talking about.

ONTARIO STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Premier, the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. I have a letter dated October 29 that was written to my colleague the House leader, the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel), by the president of the Ontario Status of Women Council. The letter is interesting in the sense that it has in big print, "Office of the Deputy Premier," and then in little print, "Ontario Advisory Council on the Status of Women." It is on his letterhead. It comes from his office. It says, "Office of the Deputy Premier," so it comes from his office.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Why does this letter say, "Bill 141 also includes positive changes for live-in domestic workers"? Why does the letter say that when as long ago as October 12, 1984, the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) had to stand in his place and apologize to the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) for making the same fundamental mistake?

Surely the minister knows and surely the people in his office know that Bill 141 has nothing at all to do with the problems of domestic workers.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the letter to which reference is made relates to the office of the advisory council. It looks after its own mail. The reporting relationship is to the Office of the Deputy Premier. That letter would not have been prepared in my office, but obviously would have been prepared by the author of the letter. I do not have that letter. Therefore, I am at some disadvantage in discussing it.

One thing is quite sure: Bill 141 does take some very positive steps with respect to equal pay because it brings in amendments to the Employment Standards Act and will bring in equal pay for work of equal value for substantially similar work. I hope the member can be persuaded to get on and pass that legislation on behalf of the women of Ontario.

Mr. Rae: The minister refers to equal pay. The Deputy Premier should know, and I hope he does realize, that the recent study by Mr. Gunderson shows that what he has proposed is even less than a 10 per cent solution; it is something like a five per cent solution to the problem.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Is the minister aware that in 1980 there was a very real press statement by the then chairman of the Ontario Status of Women Council, and that it is interesting the statement nowhere mentions the Office of the Deputy Premier or any other cabinet minister? At that time, it was an independent advisory council.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It still is.

Mr. Rae: It does not look like it. The minister says it is independent. It certainly does not seem that way.

At that time the then chairman, Lynne Gordon, said equal pay legislation was absolutely necessary to deal with the inequalities between men and women in the work place. Does the minister not feel it is nothing less than the decline and fall of a good idea that in 1980 the council was stating an independent position and pushing the government to move, while today we have a status of women council that is nothing more or less than an apologist for the government of the day?

Hon. Mr. Welch: This government has been committed to the concept of equal pay since 1951 when the first legislation was brought in. The member, in his fairness, will understand that has been there. There have been amendments to the legislation over the years. Another one is now before the House in the form of Bill 141.

We have made substantial progress in this whole business of equal pay. This House has embraced the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. The member knows very well that Gunderson and other authorities to whom he makes reference understand that it requires some further consideration with respect to how one effects the implementation.

The member will have to agree the same Gunderson report talks about the gap that will be closed and the percentage that will be the result of taking this step. There are further steps to be taken. Gunderson goes on to point out that substantial strides will be taken when we can eliminate the whole question of occupational segregation and work towards the time when we have a work place where gender is not relevant any more, when we have jobs without gender in this province. This is all part of the evolution and the stages that have to take place to ensure full equality for women in the work place.

Bill 141 is just one of those steps. I urge members to get on and pass it and let us continue to take the further steps that are necessary to ensure there is economic equality for women in this province. Surely the member must be convinced of that.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to return to the fundamental issue of the independence of the advisory council on the status of women. Surely the minister can understand the problem and the perception that is created when a letter such as this is sent out, whether it is to my friend the House leader of the third party or to any other member of this Legislature or to a member of the public, on this kind of an issue with the minister's office as part of the letterhead.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: Does the minister agree that the Touche Ross report he tabled in the Legislature and gave to the opposition critics contains a rather unfortunate lack of recognition of the independence of the advisory council by suggesting that the role of the council president remain part time and that the council not get the kinds of funds necessary to be a truly independent body?

It also suggests that the roles of the minister, the president of the council and the executive director of the women's directorate are far too closely aligned and denies independence by urging them to work together on policy issues rather than allowing the council to have its own measures of independence.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, as my honourable friend knows, the estimates of the

Deputy Premier are before the committee of supply and I am sure we will have ample opportunity in the remaining time to discuss what I think is a very important issue he raises. I am not here to apologize for the Touche Ross report. We asked for a report and that is the report. He is entitled to be critical of the report, as I am, and we will discuss that during the course of the estimates.

What my friend and the leader of the third party have not told the House, of course, is that when responsibility or accountability to this Legislature for the advisory council rested with another minister, that letterhead was used. It is simply a method of identifying the route of accountability to the Legislature. The Provincial Secretariat for Social Development had that responsibility, and I am sure if the member looks up the letterhead he will see the Provincial Secretariat for Social Development and then particular identification of the source of the correspondence, as the status of women council.

The status of women council in this province is an arm's-length body. I respect that and will continue to respect that, regardless of what conclusions are drawn on the basis of a letterhead.

Mr. Rae: The minister is really demonstrating himself to be pre-eminently one of Santa's prehistoric friends when it comes to the discussion of staged progress.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: He has scarcely reached the palaeolithic age in terms of recognizing equality for men and women in Ontario today. If it is an arm's-length relationship he has with the Ontario Status of Women Council, all I can say is it is a pretty short arm. The very wording is precisely the same as the arguments he has used in the House in terms of rights. The president of the council even makes the same mistake the Minister of Labour made with respect to domestic workers.

Mr. Speaker: Will the member please place his question.

Mr. Rae: I was just getting to it, Mr. Speaker.

Will the minister sit down with the president of the council and go over with her the fact there are literally dozens of women's groups, ranging from the National Action Committee on the Status of Women to the Equal Pay Coalition, groups right across society, which reject the approach of the status of women council to Bill 141 and take the opposite view of Bill 141, regarding it as a fraud and as a barrier to real

progress in terms of equal pay? Will he sit down and discuss that and then come back here and report what his plans are for legislation?

Hon. Mr. Welch: If I could just pick up on what seems to be the question: it would hardly be consistent with being at arm's length if I were to call on any president of an arm's-length organization and dictate what she should tell me. The fact that she happens to have some views in that letter that might correspond with ours might even be a rebuttal of the sweeping statement the member has made about critics of the bill.

2:30 p.m.

I would plead with him to take a look at this jurisdiction and compare it with this comment with respect to equal pay. I will sit in my place and wait for him to share those views with me during my estimates.

Second, let us get on with Bill 141 and provide another positive step towards equal pay for women. The women of this province deserve to have at least that indication of the member's support along with ours.

Mr. Rae: Now we have the ultimate fraud. The minister is responsible for calling the bill. The bill has been called once—

Mr. Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Rae: —since the House resumed sitting. He would rather debate the question of what is the official song or the official bird than introduce equal pay legislation in this province.

NURSING HOMES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Health. Has he had a chance to read the document put out by the Social Planning Council of Metropolitan Toronto called *Caring for Profit*?

In a report dated March 27, 1984, from the office of the chief coroner of Ontario it is stated that in 1982 there were 138 accidental deaths in nursing homes while at the same time there were 47 accidental deaths in homes for the aged.

Can the minister explain why this is? Can he explain why, in 1983, there were 174 accidental deaths in nursing homes and 47 in homes for the aged? Can he explain why there are 3.5 to four times as many people dying in accidents in nursing homes, which are run on a for-profit basis, as die in homes for the aged, which are run on a not-for-profit basis?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I have not seen the report to which the member first referred. The answer to the second part of his question is no, I cannot give him any explanation

for that now. However, I think it is absolutely preposterous that he would stand in this House and suggest there is any relationship between those two matters.

Mr. Rae: Let us be clear about what is preposterous. What is preposterous is the way the minister runs the health care system for old people in Ontario. The private deals the government has worked out with the nursing home industry leave them with a virtual monopoly in care for older people. That is what is absolutely preposterous.

What is the minister's explanation? Is he aware this number of accidental deaths has occurred in nursing homes? What is his explanation for the vast discrepancy with the number of accidental deaths in homes for the aged?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I already indicated to the member I cannot speculate now as to what the explanation might be for the relative difference in the number of deaths he has cited. I am not familiar with the report to which he has referred. However, it borders upon the scandalous that he should stand here and suggest there is some relationship between the fact care for the elderly in some instances is provided in the private sector and the number of deaths that might occur in those institutions. That is absolutely irresponsible garbage.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the minister is aware there are some private for-profit nursing homes that are either unable or unwilling to provide the required level of service. The minister and his ministry have dealt with some of those. The difficulty lies in what one must do.

Has the ministry any plan to provide funding assistance, guaranteed or low-cost loans, or whatever, for private nonprofit groups to take over such homes? I refer to groups such as charitable institutions or service clubs. Has he any plans to have them take over such homes rather than to leave them in the hands they are in now, where obviously the changes required simply are not going to be made?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is true there may be some deficiencies. We have acknowledged that, and there are charges now before the courts in some of those cases. They must be in compliance and they know that. In the last six or eight months we have substantially toughened up the enforcement of regulations under our nursing home legislation. Recently I announced measures being taken to enforce compliance, even by those homes that were grandfathered, those that predate the inception of legislation in this province in the early 1970s.

They will be in compliance within a two-year period.

The question as it relates to nonprofit involvement in the nursing home field is certainly open to any nonprofit organization that wishes to become involved. In fact, a number have become involved during the last several years, sometimes under the auspices of a hospital, at other times under the auspices of other nonprofit organizations. So it is not an exclusive domain of the private or of the profit-making sector, as seems to be the obsession of the leader of the third party.

Mr. Rae: There is no obsession. I am surprised the minister has not taken the time to get hold of this document put out by the social planning council.

I would like to refer the minister to page 94 of this document, where it quotes from the recent report of the task force of the Canadian Medical Association, which expressed concerns about the quality of care in private/profit nursing homes and urged a move towards a different way of managing those homes. This report says:

"According to information received from the coroner's office, there were 174 unnatural deaths in nursing homes in 1983 compared with only 47 in charitable and municipal homes for the aged. There are approximately the same number of residents in the two types of facilities. While it is obviously impossible to draw conclusions from these statistics without more information, these data, in combination with the recent inquests and numerous reports of violations of the Nursing Homes Act, do raise serious questions about the quality of care in some nursing homes."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: Does the minister not agree that it does raise serious questions? Will he undertake to the House to investigate and come up with an explanation of why those figures would be so different?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not suggesting that any death in any institutional setting in this province is not a matter of concern. But I would suggest to the leader of the third party that one might view the documents of the social planning council with greater objectivity. It has also at times been known to be motivated more by ideological concerns than by objectivity, I suggest.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities about the college strike.

The minister is aware that among the wide range of programs offered in the colleges are the eight-week compulsory courses for apprentices. Is the minister also aware, however, that those eight-week slots are scheduled a year in advance and that any apprentice who is or was in the midst of the course during this strike will lose that program this time around? He has already lost three weeks and cannot be rescheduled for a whole year. The subsequent penalty attached to that is not only the loss of the credit but also the loss of a wage upscaling that goes with that credit.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: Is the minister aware of this? Has she taken any steps to compensate such people for this unfair penalty, over which the students have had no control, particularly when we are trying to encourage more young people to go into the apprenticeship program?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the particular hazard relating to the short-course students. It is my understanding that the colleges are making every attempt to work with the employers to reschedule in the most appropriate way either interrupted or postponed courses for the students in order to ensure they meet the requirements of the students as rapidly as they can and bend over backwards to try to accommodate an increased number of students in those situations in order to ensure more students will be able to achieve that finality of their apprenticeship activity and gain their journeyman status.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, my question has to do with a student at Loyalist College in Belleville who is quite worried about the present situation. I would like to ask the minister for some specifics.

Here we have a case of a lady who has left her present job to upgrade or improve herself. If this strike goes on, she will not have an income from the federal government to support herself and her family and pay for other expenses she has. Could the minister give us some specifics today on how this type of student will be assisted if the strike continues?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I thought I made it abundantly clear at the end of my statement that the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission has been extremely helpful and very generous in dealing with the problems of this kind of student within the college system. I think I also made it very clear that individual students should contact their local

employment centre counsellor who will be of assistance to them.

Mr. O'Neil: What are they going to do, though?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Today she can call the counsellor at the local employment centre.

Mr. O'Neil: What will they do for her?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is a matter that will be determined by the counsellor.

AMATEUR HOCKEY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The studies done by the Quebec Sports Safety Board indicate one third of hockey accidents involving injury are the result of violence. Brent Ladds in his comments to the *Globe and Mail* on Friday and Saturday said the following:

"Brent Ladds, president of the Ontario Hockey Association, says amateur hockey officials 'feel shell-shocked. After all, they are just a group of volunteers. And we do not think violence is a major issue for hockey. If it were, we would address it.'"

He also said, "Secondly, the concern the government is expressing is probably an answer to the New Democratic Party's questions about safety in amateur hockey." It is obvious the hockey moguls still do not believe violence is a problem in this province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Martel: Why does the minister believe the safety board he is proposing does not need legislative authority in order to obtain all the appropriate information related to accidents to determine those that are caused by violence and those that are purely accidental? Why are they going to give him that information now on a voluntary basis?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I would like to assure Mr. Ladds that my concern about hockey violence and injuries in hockey is not simply generated because of the interest expressed across the House. I am personally very much concerned, as is everybody on this side of the House, about the continued unacceptably high rate of injuries in hockey. When they brag and say 54 per cent of all injuries are not related to acts of violence or assault, I ask the other question: what about the 46 per cent that obviously are related to violence?

We have a very strong concern and interest in this field. I think the safety board we are working on right now, about which I hope to be able to say

more in a few weeks time, is going to provide a solution for hockey in this province.

I know the member for Sudbury East paid a visit to Quebec and looked at the new board there. As I have indicated, I do not think that is particularly the route we would follow. It is a very large board with a \$2.5-million expenditure and 45 full-time staff. I do not think we need to have that kind of expenditure to get the job done here.

In terms of legislation, I would first like to take the high road in working collaboratively with the hockey people to see whether through this safety board we can reduce the injuries. If it works better that way, that is the way we would like to go. If it does not, the other possible way is still open to us.

Mr. Martel: I draw the minister's attention to the fact that accidents in sports cost the Quebec government more than \$60 million last year. I am not sure why he is worried about \$2.2 million for a board that might resolve some of those problems.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Martel: Is the minister aware that in 1981 we introduced regulations under the Occupational Health and Safety Act with respect to lead and the minister had to intervene on more than one occasion to get people to accept those regulations and do assessments as late as 1983?

Is the minister further aware that Neron and his group in Quebec indicate they could not get the information on a voluntary basis that led to the studies they were doing? In fact, they have asked for legislation to impose time limits.

I want to know what makes this minister believe that those people, who do not even accept there is a hockey problem and who destroyed the Hockey Ontario Development Committee, are going to provide to him on a voluntary basis the type of accident statistics I presented in one case last week about five boys who were injured.

Why are they going to do it on a voluntary basis when we have had three studies and they refused to provide any information at all? Even where we have legislation, the minister has to intervene. Does he think for some reason they are going to provide the sports board with that information? Does the minister believe in the tooth fairy?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: No, I do not believe in the tooth fairy. What I do believe—and I suppose this might be a slightly different philosophical approach to society—is that before we coerce or enforce legislation, we should at least give the private sector, the voluntary hockey people, the

opportunity to see whether they will collaborate with this new safety board. If they do not, then reluctantly we may have to take stronger steps. Before we legislate, let us assume there is a little good sense out there and that not all the wisdom in the world rests in this House.

Mr. Sargent: Mr. Speaker, if the minister had a team over on that side with players such as the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), he would have to change lines during playing of the national anthem.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question, please.

Mr. Sargent: I think it is time the minister got up off it and supported the member for Sudbury East.

EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Transportation and Communications. I have a letter from the Thunder Bay Professional Firefighters' Association regarding traffic charges against firefighters in Ontario.

As the minister is probably aware, recently in the city of Thunder Bay firefighter Dave Grant was charged under the Highway Traffic Act for failing to stop for a red light. Mr. Grant was driving a fire department rescue truck and was involved in an accident while proceeding to a fire alarm. Under the Highway Traffic Act, a driver of an emergency vehicle must stop at a red light and only proceed when it is safe to do so.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Hennessy: Unfortunately, Mr. Grant was charged under this regulation. Is there any step by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications more or less to forego the personal criticism or perhaps loss of demerit points by that person, who was working for the city of Thunder Bay and the general public and was driving a city truck, so that he is not penalized with respect to his personal insurance and driving habits? Is there any thought of some regulation so people are not penalized to that effect?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have not heard of the instance involved. I am sure the member will remember that about two years ago, in one of our annual or semi-annual reviews and amendments to the Highway Traffic Act, provisions were put in so that the driver of an emergency vehicle—an ambulance or a fire engine—could proceed through a red traffic light, providing he had stopped at the red light, had his siren sounding and red lights flashing, and saw that it was safe to do so.

2:50 p.m.

It is senseless to see a fire truck or an emergency vehicle waiting at a red light when there is no traffic in either direction, so we gave that right to the drivers of those emergency vehicles. However, that does not take away the responsibility to make a safe crossing at an intersection. It is the driver's responsibility to stop, to see that the crossing can be made safely and also to have his red light flashing and his siren sounding—or whatever noise he has, a siren or one of those squawk machines.

When that is not the case and a charge is laid, that has to be dealt with by the courts. I would assume what the honourable member refers to is if the court finds the driver guilty of going through a red light then there would be demerit points against his driver's licence.

The member referred to the effect on private insurance rates. To my knowledge, that would only affect his private insurance rates if that particular driver had a considerable number of demerit points before that incident. Certainly, the insurance companies do rate insurance policies up if a driver has a high number of demerit points.

It is my understanding, and personal experience I might say—not my self but a member of my family—that when one has a number of demerit points one gets a higher insurance rate. But for one or two infractions, for instance if the driver lost two or three points, it is not my belief that would cause his insurance rate to change.

Mr. Hennessy: My question is not fully answered. What I am concerned about is if a person was doing his job and was to stop at every red light probably some people would die in a fire and then the fire department would be accused of neglect. I am just asking the minister whether there is any possibility of his ministry bringing in some regulations so that these people would be protected in doing a job that is beneficial to the public.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I know you were getting very frustrated with the length of my last answer, Mr. Speaker, but I will try to see if I can do it all over again.

I understand what the member is saying, but I still have to tell him, and it was the opinion of this Legislature when those amendments were passed—I might say they were recommended by the firefighters' association, by the police and by the ambulance drivers—that it still must be the responsibility of the driver to stop and to see that he can make a safe crossing, regardless of how important it is for him to get to the destination.

He may endanger or take a number of lives, including his own, by going through an intersection without stopping. I think it is more important that he should stop rather than run a red light. That is the way the law is drafted and that is the way the members of this Legislature approved it.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, will the minister not at least give the Legislature his commitment that he will consult with the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) to see whether regulations can be drafted which would protect individual firefighters, in this case when they proceed through an intersection fully believing it is safe and they are hit rather than their hitting another car, so that those infractions are not automatically charged, as they currently are by the police; and so that the individual driver will not suffer the demerit points and the increase in insurance rates which my colleague the member for Fort William brings to the minister's attention?

Does the minister not realize that if a fire truck is brought to a full stop at a red light, the acceleration time, because of the thousands of tons of water in the truck, means a delay on average in Thunder Bay of about 10 minutes in response time?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, in the first place, if any fire truck on the road was carrying thousands of tons of water, I am sure it would be totally illegal. Secondly, I cannot believe, for the life of me, having driven trucks for a number of years, that it takes 10 minutes to slow down and decelerate a truck. I suggest to the honourable member he might do a little more research on this.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, with regard to the concern expressed to me by many college students, how does the Minister of Colleges and Universities plan to accommodate those students enrolled in tourism and hospitality courses, students whose services are required by the industry in early spring and who cannot extend the time of their course if they wish to secure employment and if this great industry is to have its employees in place? How does the minister plan to deal with this situation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, each college is developing a program whereby it can meet the specific concerns and requirements of individual students within each of the courses. The pattern will not be precisely the same across Ontario. For the tourism students, it obviously

means there will be a concentrated effort, perhaps through such mechanisms as extending the school day and utilizing days that might be available on weekends, to complete the academic program. This would allow the students to be ready for their co-operative educational activity, which is within the establishments in the industry in the medium to late spring rather than early spring.

I know each college is looking specifically at the ways in which it can accommodate specific programs because the patterns are going to be different across the province.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, in Fanshawe College in London we have a co-op travel-tourism program, part of which will be completed at the end of December. A new group comes in January. Is the minister suggesting the new group would have to be delayed or staggered in any way to accommodate the present group that will have to pick up that time?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do not know whether that is going to be necessary. I suppose it is a possibility, but it is my understanding the very real concern being expressed at the present time is to try to accommodate particularly the co-operative educational programs. These have some special kinds of parameters that it is going to be necessary to meet. To my knowledge, there is not likely to be a significant delay of admission.

FUNDING OF THE ARTS

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture with respect to the recent evidence of a great Tory turnaround in Ottawa on arts funding. No doubt the minister has seen recent reports of cuts in the wind to the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. budget amounting to \$75 million, and of other less specific cutbacks for other federal institutions.

Is the minister aware of a recent Canadian Press report which notes this, but goes on to say: "More troubling to cultural organizations may be Mr. Masse's challenge of their traditional arm's-length relationship with government. Mr. Masse has met many of his provincial counterparts and heard that such groups as the CBC, the Canada Council and Telefilm Canada are insensitive to their needs"?

Can I ask the minister a series of questions in that respect?

Mr. Speaker: Just one, please.

Mr. Allen: First, will the minister respond to why and in what way those institutions are insensitive to provincial ministers of culture and,

in particular, did she make that complaint? Has she informed the federal minister that the Macaulay study, for example, concluded that the arts in Ontario badly need more support, not less, and that cultural industries, the fourth-largest employer in this province, are—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, I could not quite hear the last numbers and perhaps—

Mr. Speaker: I would like to point out to all honourable members they are allowed to ask a question. You heard the question.

Hon. Ms. Fish: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There were several questions there. Was I aware of some newspaper articles? I was. I have read them.

Did I specifically express concern about them? I wrote down at least two of those that were queried—the CBC and/or Telefilm. The answer is no. The subjects did not come up in discussion.

3 p.m.

Did I raise with the minister in my meetings the importance of cultural industries in Ontario and the importance the Macaulay report attached to support for the arts? The answer to both of those questions is yes.

Let me indicate clearly that the meeting I had here in Toronto with my colleague the Honourable Marcel Masse was a preliminary meeting specifically at my request, to which he acceded. It was specifically designed to raise with him the many issues of mutual interest between the province and the federal government pointed out by the Macaulay committee. I did note, as did the minister, in a communiqué following our meeting, it was our intention to pursue these and many other matters further. We hope to do this at the beginning of December.

Mr. Breagh: How many?

Mr. Allen: Yes, how many? Specifically with respect to local organizations which often do not get the attention of such high level meetings, I wonder if the minister has been acting as a defender of local arts organizations which undoubtedly will be impacted by this trend of federal policy?

For example, is she aware that in Hamilton the amount of money that goes from the Canada Council to institutions like the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra, Opera Hamilton, Hamilton Artists Inc., Theatre Aquarius and the Art Gallery of Hamilton is every bit the size of that coming from the Ontario Arts Council? Is she aware that \$500,000 goes into Hamilton from the Canada Council? Is she acting to protect those

local arts organizations? Is she making specific representations before the federal minister as to the needs they have or is she, in this issue, going to roll over and play dead—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Allen: —and will that become the pattern of the new world of Conservative Federal/Provincial co-operation?

Hon. Ms. Fish: I do not think I have ever, on any of these occasions, rolled over and played dead.

Mr. Rae: Go to work with a smile.

Hon. Ms. Fish: I think I may smile but that is a smile of support and encouragement to the arts, not a rictus.

The member asks if I am speaking out on these matters; I most certainly am. The minister is well aware of the importance of the Canada Council. He is well aware of the importance of the arts in Ontario. Ontario is the premier place, particularly in English-speaking Canada, of the arts in this country.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, the federal minister may well be aware of the problems that we have here with funding and the additional things we would like to get from the federal government, but may I ask what sort of commitment did this minister get from the federal minister about what he was going to do to improve the situation in Ontario?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, I will indicate once again that the meeting was held at my request. It was the first of what we hope will be several meetings to raise a series of questions from the Macaulay committee report on matters of mutual interest. The minister is very sensitive to the importance of the arts in Ontario and to the particular importance of federal support to the arts. I know he is working very hard in this area to provide not only continued support but also expanded support. I look forward to having him speak for himself in the future.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have yet another question of the Minister of Colleges and Universities, who failed in her statement today to deal with another issue affecting students.

The minister is no doubt aware that when the parents are no longer in school or working, they lose the subsidized day care space for their children. Because of the community college strike, a number of municipalities are terminating these subsidies. We did some checking today

and came up with five areas where a total of more than 200 children are affected.

These are Hamilton, where there are about 100, my own community of Windsor, where the number is nearing 50, Halton county, Brant county and Essex county. Because these centres all have waiting lists for subsidized day care, we were told by the administrators they cannot guarantee the spaces will exist for the parents after the strike ends.

What guarantees can the minister give to those parents who now face the possibility they will have no day care for their kids when this strike finally ends? What guarantees can she give them they will be able to continue with their schooling and will have a place to put their children?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do not have direct contact with the areas related to day care but I know the colleges that have a number of students whose families are being cared for within the subsidized day care centres have been in contact with those centres. I do not know this for a fact, but I believe there is some understanding there will be accommodation made for those children when the students return to the classroom.

I will certainly check that matter because it is not one that has been specifically related to me except in a general way.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, on a related matter, what can the minister tell a student such as Ken Parker, who is attending Loyalist College in Belleville? This student is attending an accelerated accounting course that, as I understand it, condenses two years into one.

The minister has already said the maximum a student can lose is six weeks. This student is really at a point, it seems to me, where the three weeks really equate to six. How can that person catch up and meet the deadlines he has for employment and so on during the coming summer? Can the minister tell us how that person is going to accommodate this situation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I do not believe I suggested the maximum a student could lose is six weeks; I do not know where the honourable member got that position. All I did today was to try to provide factual information for the students within the college system concerning their programs and their courses as of this date within the college system and to encourage them to continue to consider seriously maintaining their education program, because we are going to be monitoring on a daily basis from now on in order to ensure no student is in real jeopardy.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask a supplementary to the original question. I wrote to the Minister of Community and Social Services (Mr. Drea) on this matter last week. Will the minister at least contact the Minister of Community and Social Services and suggest to him that municipalities like Windsor, Hamilton and others that are cutting off this day care subsidy should not be allowed to do so or should be encouraged not to do so? Perhaps the first thing they could do is try to educate welfare administrators in this province that day care is not just baby-sitting for when parents are away; it happens to be early childhood education and it is needed whether parents are at home or not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

SPADINA EXPRESSWAY

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications with respect to the Spadina expressway. I have an article from the Globe and Mail and the headline reads, "Miller Receives Support of Right-Wing Ministers." It states that the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) said it was premature to announce his position on such issues as the future of the Spadina expressway.

Admittedly that was before the cabal had reached its secret agreement, but I want to ask the minister quite seriously whether, notwithstanding the position of the candidate of his choice, he still supports the position of the government. Can he tell us the current status of the various promises that were made by the government and by the Premier (Mr. Davis)?

Specifically, has the survey of the Spadina lands been completed? Are the deeds ready in preparation for transfer of the property from Metro to the province and then back to the city of Toronto so the commitment for a three-foot strip can be honoured and upheld? What is the exact status of the promise, the commitment and the work with respect to the transfer of the ownership of the Spadina lands to the city of Toronto?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I could not get my right wing up there.

The answer to the first part of the honourable member's question is yes, I certainly support the position of the government as it relates to the Spadina expressway.

Second, I have answered all those other questions in a letter to the member, which I am sure must be on his desk or in his files someplace.

Mr. McClellan: No; with respect, I never received the letter.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am sorry. I got the message that in my absence one day the member had asked a question of my colleague the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). I read the question in great detail and as it was somewhat detailed, I replied to the member opposite in writing. I am sorry if he does not have it yet.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I would just make it clear that I asked the question about two and a half weeks ago and I have not had a written communication from the minister.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: I heard the minister say he had replied. If he has not, I would expect him to be in touch with the member.

Mr. Sargent: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I have been sitting here for about an hour now and I still do not know what stand the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) is taking on whether the students will get their year. I would like to know, yes or no?

Mr. Speaker: That is hardly a point of order. I ask you to resume your seat.

Mr. Sargent: Let her tell the House. It is damned important.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Sargent: I want to know what is going on.

Mr. Speaker: Speak to her later.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

ASSESSMENT AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Gregory moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Baetz, first reading of Bill 129, An Act to amend the Assessment Act.

Motion agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this bill is to provide for the return of assessment rolls for municipal taxation at present levels of assessment, except where market-value-based reassessment is introduced. The bill will allow us to continue with the market-value-based reassessment program which has been successfully implemented in 434 municipalities to date.

Approximately 40 more municipalities have requested tax impact studies so they can consider the consequences of the implementation of the section 63 reassessment program in their municipalities for 1985 taxation.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Conway moved, seconded by Mr. Bradley, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside in order to debate a matter of urgent public importance, namely:

In the light of the continuing community colleges teachers' strike, the provincial government's plans to ensure that community college students do not lose their academic credit as a result of the current disruption; the provincial government's plans with respect to providing equitable relief for students who have paid tuition fees but who currently are not receiving any instruction; the provincial government's plans with respect to financial aid for community college students affected by the strike; the provincial government's plans regarding increased grants to community colleges to ensure quality of education in our college system; the provincial government's plans regarding arrangements to be made for students forced to leave community college and to take up employment or, unhappily, to face unemployment; the provincial government's contingency plans made to date; the progress and results of numerous meetings of the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario and meetings of college presidents about the strike; the interim report or results of the task force of the Ministry of Colleges and Universities on the current disruption; the provincial government's plans regarding consequential losses to students on co-operative and/or work placement programs and what, if any, arrangements can possibly be substituted; and finally, the provincial government's plans regarding the problems of single-parent students and their day care provisions as certain municipalities move to withdraw such services from these students due to the continuation of the strike.

Mr. Speaker: I point out to all honourable members that this notice was received in my office by the time required by the standing orders. I would be prepared to listen for up to five minutes as to why the honourable member thinks the regular business of the House should be set aside.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. At the outset, I want to indicate that my colleagues and I are very sensitive to the fact that a news blackout has been extended to the negotiations, which now must surely be entering a very critical stage. We will try to respect that news blackout, at least to a greater degree than

the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson), who in today's press appears to have strayed away from honouring that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, you may understand—I am sure that as an honourable member of this House you do understand—that this is for hundreds of thousands of people in the province a matter of urgent and pressing concern. There are 120,000 full-time students and more than 500,000 part-time students affected by this 19-day-old strike. Everywhere in this province young people and their parents, and older people or their spouses cry out in this disruption to all the members, “What can be done to deal with this grave situation?”

I was home in my own city of Pembroke on Saturday and I was invited to meet more than 100 of the students from the Pembroke campus of Algonquin College. Never in nine years have I seen such desperation as I saw everywhere on the faces of those young people. Not only is their education in jeopardy, but their employment in many cases is very seriously and immediately affected.

The minister has risen in her place today and offered a statement that she will probably refer to in her response in this first round. That statement does not advance our concern about the student situation materially. Her statement is not acceptable and is not adequate.

A lot is being said about the 15,000 people in the system who receive either training allowances or income support from the federal Department of Employment and Immigration. In her statement this afternoon, the minister says that they should contact their local Canada Employment Centre. My research associate did just that a few moments ago, using the Etobicoke centre as his point of reference.

Let me tell the members what our office found. This is what the young people and the others in this system who are caught in this terrible jeopardy are going to be told this day and afterwards. I quote from the source at the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission office in Etobicoke. “Training allowances and other payments will continue until November 9 and we have nothing further to add at this time.” That is not good enough for the 15,000 people caught in this terrible jeopardy. This has to be a matter of urgent and pressing necessity.

The minister's statement today also indicates that information provided by the colleges indicates that currently all full-time programs can be rescheduled and completed. I say, not so. I have

talked to a number of people who have indicated that is very unrealistic. In today's Toronto Globe and Mail, Mr. Charles McNair, public affairs director at Mohawk College, would certainly have one believe that he no longer expects that is going to be a realistic option.

I ask the Minister of Colleges and Universities the fate of the tens of thousands of people who are in part-time programs. Nothing in the statement gives much hope or direction for those people.

There are altogether too many questions up in the air. I ask this House and this minister to clear the air, and to indicate specifically today what undertakings are going to be offered to the 750,000 students caught in this terrible jeopardy. Let me indicate what I am sure was the subject of great discussion everywhere in all caucuses in this building today. There is great jeopardy, not just for the education of these people but in all too many cases for their employment.

3:20 p.m.

In conclusion, for this day the matter of urgent and pressing concern to my colleagues is what this government, and more particularly this minister, are going to do to alleviate that great jeopardy for the nearly three quarters of a million students who are caught in this very terrible bind.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the motion for an emergency debate.

While we have risen twice before to discuss this issue, with each passing day the matter assumes a more grave and serious proportion for everybody concerned. Moreover, the nature of the crisis seems to be an expanding one.

On the one hand, it remains a primary crisis for the students involved in the system, but it also involves that other crisis to which I have referred on two previous occasions, namely the crisis of those who work in it attempting to maintain quality education at a time of expanding student enrolment, when the money devoted to the system does not meet the combination of increased enrolment and the attrition of inflation.

It has become a rippling kind of crisis that has caught up families and, in some respects, communities. It is a crisis that has become one of management and of governance in the system. It has also become a crisis that focuses upon the minister herself.

I could recite a great many instances of college students who have phoned me, students I have met at Mohawk College and others I have met in passing. They have conveyed to me that the circumstances under which they live at present are ones of grave distress that threaten not only their next week or month or two months of

studies, but their prospects as far away as being able to work next summer, given the backup that will occur for full-time students.

There are those students who are locked into co-operative programs. Will they be able to secure the co-operative placement in time should this strike last any longer? There are students who are up against the institutions, who have scheduled examinations over which the college system and the minister have no control. She did not refer to that in her statement. There is the problem of lost income the students need, often as part-time workers. Of necessity, many students work through the holidays or during the summer. What is going to be done to maintain their capacity to carry on their education?

I want to suggest to the minister that during this debate it will be necessary to address what the college productivity study suggested is a rather alarming situation that has developed in this system in the course of the past five years. I read directly from the study, which says, "There have been significant reductions in real unit operating costs since 1985."

The study goes on to suggest this is a great paean to the productivity and efficiency of the system. Honourable members should look at the impact that has had upon those who have tried to operate under those circumstances. "If colleges had operated in 1982 as they did in 1978-79, their resource requirements in 1982-83 would have been about 25 per cent higher than was actually the case. Almost 21 per cent more faculty would have been used. Administrative staff numbers would have been 46 per cent higher. There would have been 21 per cent more support staff. The quantities of nonlabour items purchased in that year would have been 30 per cent higher."

In other words, across the whole system the workload problem is one that is backed up to an absence of support staff. The support staff is not there to maintain the laboratories so the teacher now has to do that. It has meant there has been growth in class sizes. A 30 per cent increase in enrolment over the past five years has meant many classes have doubled and more than doubled, even though some have not. It has meant the outside-of-class time has imposed alarming burdens upon many teachers.

One wrote to me, for example—and this is not unusual, because I have talked with many on the phone: "Usually my weekends are spent marking papers or setting a test. In order to have a little time to myself, I have learned to set tests that are easier to mark. Multiple choice and true-or-false questions run a great favourite, as they can be

marked by a computer. I have not yet found a way to set assignments, however, that are easier to mark."

The crisis goes on. The minister has been hand-in-glove in her backup of the administration position. The reason the colleges have not moved on the work load proposition is that they have known the minister was behind them. Why should they bother to move? How could they? She was not going to provide them the money.

There is a crisis. We have to debate it, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the efforts that have been expended in the last four weeks in order to ensure we would be au courant with the requirements of students have been very consistent and very major. As a result of these activities, it has been determined to this date that there is not a program that cannot be completed within this school year for any student within the system.

Mr. Bradley: That is not what people are telling us.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This is the information that is developed by the colleges themselves. It is not material that is developed by the Ministry of Education or the Ministry of Colleges and Universities. One must depend on the capacity of those institutions to carry out what they say they can accomplish. I have that kind of confidence in those institutions because they have done very well during the past 17 years in the development of education programs at a skills level and a technological level that is second to none, even within the past two years, when, according to the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen), some faculty members have been experiencing a work load problem.

There is negotiation going on at the present time; there is, indeed, an offer that has been put; there is a possibility of a settlement of this strike. I really do not believe that anything my honourable friends across the floor could say would in any way add to the security of the students at this point, nor would it add to the quality of the negotiations being carried out, nor would it provide a solution to the current dispute.

I am, along with every single colleague on this side of the House, probably much more acutely concerned about the fate of those students than are any of the members opposite, in spite of their crocodile tears and all the protests of concern that have been suggested by all of them. We have been working diligently in support of those students. It is unfortunate that it has gone—

Mr. Conway: Is there any wonder we have a college strike? That kind of blather is why we have this terrible strike. You are the problem and not the solution.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Will the member for Renfrew North please resume his seat.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It really worries me that the members opposite are very willing to dish it out but never willing to take any of it.

Mr. Conway: Oh, no; I will take anything but your Nazi attitude, which has given us this strike.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The honourable member will please resume his seat, and I shall not caution him again.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: We have been attempting to ensure there will be modifications and adjustments of timetables and of the framework within which the teaching is carried out in order to ensure students will achieve their academic year.

The support that will be provided, financial and otherwise, is being worked out at the present time within the student affairs branch and, in conjunction, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission is looking very carefully at the way in which it can be supportive. It has to this point been extremely supportive and I believe it will continue to be so if it can see some light at the end of the tunnel. I certainly hope that at the end of this day we will be able to perceive some light at the end of the tunnel and an end to this dispute so that within the next very short period the students will be back in the classroom.

It is my ambition, and I hope the ambition of every member in the House, to work diligently in support of that direction rather than to try to interfere with what is going on in labour-management relationships in this unfortunate dispute.

3:30 p.m.

I believe we have the capacity to solve this problem; I believe we have the means at our disposal to do so and I really do not believe anything that is going to be said in a partisan political way in this House this afternoon is going to provide a foundation for that kind of solution. I believe the things we are doing right now will provide the foundation for an agreement for the establishment of the appropriate learning experience. I believe they will ensure that those students have an opportunity to complete their educational programs this year.

I firmly believe it would be in the best interest of the students if we were permitted to get on with what we are supposed to be doing. I think this

would be preferable to debating at some length hypothetical situations or potential solutions which may or may not be of any benefit to any student or in solving the strike.

Mr. Speaker: I have listened very carefully to the positions put forward by the representatives of the three parties. As has been mentioned, this is the third time this matter has come before the House.

Mr. Nixon: But never for debate.

Mr. Speaker: Nevertheless, at this time it is my opinion that this motion does not fall within the criteria of standing order 34(a). Therefore, I must rule against the motion as being out of order.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, unfortunately I must appeal your ruling and ask for a vote on it, not just on account of the ruling but on the basis of the Thatcherite confrontation of the minister.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, do not be silly. Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

3:52 p.m.

The House divided on the Speaker's ruling, which was sustained on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Birch, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Harris, Havrot, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Jones, Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kolyn, Lane, Leluk;

McCaffrey, McCague, McLean, McNeil, Mitchell, Norton, Piché, Pollock, Ramsay, Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Scrivener, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, J. A., Treleaven, Villeneuve, Walker, Watson, Wells, Williams, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Bryden, Conway, Cooke, Di Santo, Eakins, Edighoffer, Elston, Epp, Foulds, Grande, Haggerty, Lupusella, Mackenzie, Mancini, Martel, McClellan, McGuigan, McKessock, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Rae, Reed, Riddell, Ruprecht, Ruston, Samis, Sargent, Spensieri, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Worton, Wrye.

Ayes 57; nays 37.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of the whole.

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION
AMENDMENT ACT
(continued)**

Resuming consideration of Bill 101, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

On section 1:

The Deputy Chairman: Are we ready to vote on section 1? Shall section 1 be further considered? What clause were we on?

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, I would like to draw to your attention that I had the floor and should continue.

I am trying to be relatively brief in my remarks on this section of the bill, but I do not want to terminate my debate on it without bringing to the attention of the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) the reason for which I have been engaged in a lengthy discussion of this section, which has to do with the formation of the industrial disease panel.

To give a synopsis of what I said before, I am raising this concern because we are embracing the concept of the formation of this panel. There is no problem with that. I think the principle should be respected and I emphasize the principle of the formation of the Workers' Compensation Board in 1913, a long time ago.

I think we are facing the same historical development. The minister is showing good intentions in dealing with industrial diseases and, therefore, we have the formation of this panel with limited power under subsection 1(5) of the bill. As politicians, I do not think we should endorse—

The Deputy Chairman: May I interrupt the honourable member? He can have the floor after my mild and short interruption.

Mr. Lupusella: By all means.

The Deputy Chairman: I question whether we are going to get into any substantive motions. We have a number of amendments before us. I would like to go through the sections. Just so the member knows, the clock is running. I would like to see us proceed to some of the amendments other members have to make.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, I do not have any amendment to move at this time. I am speaking about my concerns on this section, as I did in the past.

The Deputy Chairman: That is fine.

Mr. Lupusella: As I stated, I am going to move extremely quickly on the issue, but I want the record to show this endorsement of an historical perspective which eventually will take

place in Ontario in dealing with this very serious matter of industrial diseases, how they should be controlled and so on.

4 p.m.

I hope the Chairman will not perceive or get the impression I am wasting my time. I think it is a new development in dealing with the Workers' Compensation Board. The decisions in which eventually the board has to show leadership, along with the Minister of Labour and also with the new panel that is going to be formed as a result of the passage of this particular subsection are unknown.

In order to summarize my remarks I would like to bring to the attention of the minister that the problem of industrial disease is not a new phenomenon. Three hundred years ago there was a famous doctor whose name was Bernardino Ramazzini. There is no particular significance to his having been Italian. That is why I am going to bring to the attention of the minister the excellent work he did 300 years ago in relation to industrial diseases in the work place.

I would like to read a quote concerning the complexity of the problem when it was tackled for the first time and the kind of function the panel is going to have in the very complex world in which workers are engaged. I hope the minister recognizes this situation and will pay attention to the problem. This is why I have been a little bit critical of the subclauses that are incorporated in subsection 1(5). I do not think the mandate of this panel is clear enough for us politicians to undertake the task of endorsing fully the concept of industrial diseases without taking into consideration the complexity of the subject and how many workers are affected by it.

I will quote from this magazine, which I think was very informative:

"Occupational health and safety started 300 years ago with Bernardino Ramazzini, an Italian physician whose book, *Diseases of Workers*, provided the first comprehensive account on occupational diseases. Ramazzini outlined the health hazards of noise, chemicals, dust, metals and other abrasive agents encountered by workers in 52 occupations." I am talking about 300 years ago. "In the 270 years after Ramazzini's death remarkable improvements have been made in work place health and safety, although new hazards and fresh concerns continue to arise."

That is the work of the panel. It is going to get involved in this complex situation of dealing with health hazards in the work place. Its task is going

to be important, but its mandate is not clearly enunciated in subsection 1(5) of the bill.

The general perception is that 100 years ago industrial diseases were killing workers in the work place in massive numbers. Work deaths in the United States after the turn of the century were estimated at anywhere from 15,000 to 27,000 per year, or a rate of as many as 100 deaths per 100,000 workers. Fatalities in railway construction were much worse, 280 deaths per 100,000 workers in 1904, and it goes on. It gives an illustration of different types of occupations and the industrial diseases related to them.

What this article is saying is that other factors are of even greater concern today compared with those of 100 or 300 years ago in the field of industrial diseases.

Many members have heard about toxic chemicals, asbestos, coal dust and other agents which workers have been exposed to on a daily basis. In this century alone, we have witnessed the grim litany of workers' lives wasted by silicosis, asbestosis, black lung, brown lung and other dust-related diseases. In North America, these work hazards are rising. To this list of naturally occurring substances, the rapid introduction of synthetic substances into our work places since the Second World War has added to the spectre of disease induced through new man-made chemicals.

With today's greater medical knowledge about these problems, we are more aware than ever before of work hazards. That awareness can cause worry to the workers and to politicians who are trying to enact legislation to prevent catastrophic situations in the work force.

With this background, I think the particular effect of this subsection is not clearly spelled out. The only subclause that gives some power to this panel is subclause 1(5)(n)(iii), which refers to "a medical condition that in the opinion of the board requires a worker to be removed either temporarily or permanently from exposure to a substance because the condition may be a precursor to an industrial disease."

I wish to go back to the principle of this subclause. We understand that the worker can be removed, but it does not make any reference that this panel is going to have a clear mandate to stop a company whose work process can be a hazard to workers on the employer's premises. When the panel is faced with an injured worker, it has the power, in co-operation with the Workers' Compensation Board, to remove the victim of environmental problems from the work place. I do not think this is enough.

Several times in this Legislature we have raised concerns about safety and industrial diseases underground. We know for a fact the number of Ontario mine workers who have been killed on the job. I take my figures from the Mines Accident Prevention Association of Ontario report which talks about the total number of workers who have died on the job since 1972. I am talking about miners underground.

4:10 p.m.

In 1972, 14 workers lost their lives; in 1973, 12; in 1974, 20; in 1975, 11; in 1976, 19; in 1977, 16; in 1978, 8; and in 1979, 5. In 1980, there was a jump to 19 workers who lost their lives as a result of occupational problems. In 1981 there were 9; in 1982, 7; in 1983, 7; and in 1984, 13. That brings the total from 1972 to 1984 to 160 people who lost their lives.

Why am I extremely concerned about this section? Members may recall there was a Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos in Ontario, whose report was made public a few months ago. The message given by the royal commission inquiry was extremely clear, just to draft a few lines under subsection 5 to strike a mandate for this panel to deal with this complicated topic of industrial diseases.

The government will have the power to appoint these people, but there is no clear specification of how long they are to sit on this panel. As I stated previously, the people who develop the expertise in this particular field might eventually end their term and new people will sit on the panel. I do not think this process is a fair one.

I do not want to mention the asbestos victims in Ontario, but the commissioners' words were that asbestos is a world-class occupational health disaster. I am sure there was reference in Ontario to specific companies that did not take the lead in cleaning up their work places, even though at the provincial or legislative level we did not have a statute giving the power to the government to shut down an operation that was dangerous to the workers. When we have the commissioners saying the asbestos experience in Ontario is a world-class occupational health disaster, I think the message is very clear. The disaster exists in Ontario and workers have been badly affected by this problem.

We also had an opportunity to review the overall situation of injured workers when they fought their claims at the Workers' Compensation Board regarding the pensions they received and the training process in place in relation to the

principle of removing the victims from occupational health problems such as asbestos. In certain instances, even their supplement pensions have been stopped as a result, because there were no jobs available in other premises. They have been faced with the cruel reality that their claims have not been recognized by the board as being compensable.

The commissioners stated that, tragically, this world-class occupational health disaster has yet to run its course. That indicates to me the worst is still to come. We were faced with a disaster in the past and we are faced with a disaster at present, but the worst will come in the future. I do not think the installation or formation of this industrial disease panel will address the problem that has been clearly emphasized by the commissioners who dealt with the asbestos experience in Ontario.

We can expect more compensation claims as the years go by. We can expect more men and women to die as a result of work place exposure to asbestos. The disease and the deaths may not yet have reached their peak and may continue into the next century, as the report says. These are not my words. I did not investigate asbestos. We are just dealing with one tangent or component of a very serious definition of industrial disease. It is not the only one. Maybe in other areas where there are industrial diseases related to asbestos the picture and the situation are worse than for asbestos victims in Ontario.

Mr. Chairman, if you are asking me to facilitate the principles of the amendment and to be concerned about the passage of the bill, I support the principle of this section, but I do not think we have particular clauses in it which will give power to this panel to deal with a world-class occupational and health disaster in this province, with just one occupational disease only, asbestos in this particular case.

One can name it and other chemicals affecting the health of workers across the province. I think the mandate given to this panel under subsection 1(5) is going to become futile in the years to come unless the minister is going to be clearer about what this panel has to do.

A world-class disaster demands an extraordinary response. That is why I am critical. I do not think this is the kind of reply, the installation or the passage of this particular subsection, to the victims of asbestos or workers in Ontario affected by industrial diseases in the work place.

Instead, what the commissioners have delivered is an understated account of the problem, coupled with an astonishingly limited number of

concrete responses. Let me tell members the kind of responses. To begin with, the report concludes that existing knowledge strongly suggests that deaths which by law are compensable are going uncompensated. I do not think this section of Bill 101 as a whole is going to deal with this reference to the problem.

I understand the good faith of the minister and that phase 2, the reshaping of the so-called process, reshaping the Workers' Compensation Board in Ontario, will be introduced in the near future. When one is dealing with disaster in Ontario in relation to the field of industrial diseases, I do not think the workers are going to be pleased to get the kind of response which is incorporated in subsection 1(5) of the bill.

After the extensive work pursued by the commissioners on the issue of asbestos alone, a lot of people still are, and are going to become, the victims of a process which never worked in the province and which I do not think will ever work with the formation of this panel.

We are dealing with claims that are not properly compensated by the board because we are still faced with a new era of changes in that particular field. We are dealing with a percentage of substances which are in the air or particular chemicals which workers are in contact with. I thought the board was supposed to come out with clear indication of how to deal with industrial diseases and to give a clear mandate to these people dealing with industrial diseases. From the legislative point of view, I do not get a clear message about what these people are going to do in relation to the whole spectrum of industrial diseases in Ontario.

4:20 p.m.

Using a conservative methodology, the commission estimated that 75 to 145 asbestos-related cancer deaths occurred in Ontario in 1980. Are all these victims being compensated by the Workers' Compensation Board? The commissioners came out with a report stating they were not. Some of their claims were not even recognized. Of the 145 asbestos-related cancer deaths, the Workers' Compensation Board accepted only 20 claims. That is a clear message as to how the board approaches the problem.

According to the commissioners, there has been a failure by the WCB to use its discretion to determine compensation for industrial diseases. I can understand the process quite simply. If we expect this panel to get involved in the very complex area of industrial diseases, it is going to be faced with the situation that the Workers' Compensation Board does not yet have clear

guidelines on dealing with industrial disease problems.

I think its mandate really does not give us, and the minister is not giving us, an indication of what this panel is going to do. Perhaps the panel is going to be just a smokescreen process on which the government can rely when members of this parliament raise concerns in the area of industrial diseases. People such as members of the media might raise a grave concern about industrial diseases and the Minister of Labour could stand up on the floor of this Legislature with the position that there is now an industrial diseases panel operating in Ontario and that panel will investigate the complaint.

With the greatest respect, I do not think the good intentions of the minister are a good way to deal with something that is very serious, something that has been classified by the commissioners who studied just asbestos—I do not want to mention the thousands of problems this field will be affected by—as a world-class occupational health disaster in Ontario.

If that is the kind of response we are looking for, I think the minister was wrong in drafting this legislation or he should come out with an amendment to this subsection to give a clear mandate to the panel to deal with occupational industrial disease problems in Ontario.

According to the commissioners, there has been a failure by the WCB to use the discretion it has to determine compensation for industrial disease. We are in 1984. I understand that employers across the province are overreacting to serious problems affecting workers in Ontario because of the sky-rocketing assessment on subsidizing or funding claims at the WCB and so on. I understand there are problems, but I do not see any social balance that the government has installed to deal with serious problems such as asbestos.

I have been trying to use discretion when I talk about asbestos. We can talk about silicosis. We can talk about lung cancer and how it develops as a result of other problems that workers across Ontario are in contact with. However, I am using asbestos as an example of how the government is reacting to a world-class occupational health disaster in Ontario.

The board's use of guidelines, according to the report, has been "informal, internal, unsystematic and piecemeal. It has done nothing to dispel perceptions of the board's arbitrariness."

Thus a royal commission inquiry comes out with a clear description of industrial diseases and how the board is reacting to the problem, yet the

government reacts to the problem by introducing Bill 101. Those politicians are told on the floor of the Legislature there will be phase 2 of Professor Weiler's report which deals specifically with industrial diseases. I do not know when this will be, perhaps after the next provincial election, but the province already is facing a world-class occupational health disaster.

I wish to conclude by conveying to the Minister of Labour that I respect his good intentions but I think we have to deal with this world-class occupational health disaster. It is as simple as that and we cannot delay the process. We cannot incorporate just a few clauses under Bill 101 to deal with as complex a topic as industrial diseases.

The guidelines illustrate the board's shift away from a presumption in the act in favour of the claimants. In addition, there have been problems with the processing of compensation claims on behalf of diseased workers. "Our paramount impression," say the commissioners, "is that the board adjudicators do not appear, on balance, to have approached the claims of diseased asbestotics with a mindset attuned to the reality of the medical uncertainty."

I do not want to waste my time, but we have the typical case with Johns-Manville Co. Ltd. which over the years posted a death toll of 68 at its Scarborough plant. It receives special mention in the report. The commissioners recommended that the Workers' Compensation Board levy the maximum penalty assessment possible under the act in respect of the Scarborough plant which closed in 1980.

This indicates of what a plant can do when dealing with industrial diseases in Ontario. As a regular citizen, if I break the law I am going to be charged. I am going to be taken before the court where a judge will deliver his decision. I think we are using two different methods of justice in Ontario, one for employers and one for regular citizens.

Furthermore, from 1971 to 1981 compensation claims generated a deficit for the company's Scarborough plant of \$5,826,000, according to the commissioners. Their report says: "The board apparently believes it is either impossible or inappropriate to levy a penalty assessment against a plant that is closed, but we find nothing to sustain this view...In our view, failing to levy an assessment...sends a perverse message to other employers in the province."

That is why, in my opening remarks about this subsection, I placed the emphasis on prevention. I placed emphasis on health. I emphasized that

workers' health should be considered by this government ahead of the profit of a company which might endanger the health of a worker.

4:30 p.m.

The reality of the problem is so great—we are talking about a world-class occupational health disaster in Ontario—I do not think the formation of this panel is going to solve this particular situation. I asked why. My speech said thousands of new chemicals are manufactured by the private sector and eventually end up on the market. The workers come in contact with these chemicals during the manufacturing process and at some point the public comes in contact with them.

If there is so much at stake, we in Ontario need leadership from the Minister of Labour. We need a serious commitment from his government. I do not want to discourage the minister who is trying to do his best, but we are dealing with a world-class occupational health disaster. If yet another royal commission is put in place in Ontario to study other programs, then in the end we are going to be faced with still stronger comments from the commission. I do not know what kind of terminology the commission will use in dealing with the other problems. I repeat, we are dealing with a world-class occupational health disaster.

In conclusion, I am extremely concerned about this problem. The Minister of Labour is going to have a great task in dealing with this grave situation of industrial diseases. The formation of the panel may be the first step. I do think the function of this panel is going to be extremely complex on such a very complex subject as industrial diseases, unless there is a clear mandate that will be legislated under Bill 101. I do not think the efforts of the panel are going to solve the problem, a serious world-class problem, that has been in existence in Ontario for centuries.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to add a few comments on Bill 101, the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act, and its proposed amendments. As are other honourable members, I am a little concerned about some of the wordings in clauses in the new bill.

I am looking at subsection 5(1), in which "industrial disease" is said to include: "a disease resulting from exposure to a substance relating to a particular process, a trade or an occupation in an industry."

That does not tell us anything about what protective measures are going to be applied under this section. There is no clause that says an

employee has the right to know what he is working with, what potential hazards are in that work environment.

Other members have discussed the bill and said there should be preventive measures applied in the bill. There is nothing under the section that specifies the amount of time that should be spent in monitoring the working environment to find the level of hazardous material floating about in the ambient air and other areas around the work place. There is nothing about threshold amounts mentioned there. To me, the bill does not go far enough.

I draw that to the attention of the minister because I am concerned about the number of workers who have become ill from exposure to asbestos, who have worked in the asbestos area, which has caused some cases of lung cancer. There is really nothing in the bill that indicates any preventive measures.

It goes on to say, "any of the diseases mentioned in schedule 3 or 4." Schedule 3 under the existing act does not cover chronic bronchitis or emphysema, but it is still related to a disease of the respiratory organs. I would suggest that at some place along the line when we introduce a piece of legislation such as this, the members on this side and on the government side should have a clear understanding of the intent and the direction he is moving in this particular bill.

If one appears before the Workers' Compensation Board, for example, on a matter of emphysema, it is not in schedule 3. To my knowledge during the years I have been here I have not seen anybody who has been compensated for emphysema. I do not have to tell members about the chemicals that are present in the local work place that many workers were not aware were hazardous.

I have a document here just to add some background support to what I am saying. A worker who worked for Thompson Products, a division of TRW Canada Ltd. in St. Catharines, reported off sick and was put on accident insurance. Without knowing it at the time, he had worked in a hazardous environment and he developed a respiratory disease that has continued up until this time and has caused other problems with his health.

I suggest the company knew full well about the hazardous environment he worked in. He signed an agreement with that industry indicating, "Yes, we are going to give you \$1,100 in full compensation for all outstanding claims for weekly sick benefits." But it was never mentioned to the Workers' Compensation Board that

it should have come under the Workers' Compensation Act.

I thought I would just read this into the record. Perhaps other employees have signed a similar agreement in the past. It says here:

"The association, both for itself and on behalf of all present and former employees of the company covered by the collective agreement aforesaid and on behalf of the grievor"—I will not mention his name—"and the grievor on his own behalf, hereby agree that for and in consideration of the sum paid by the company to the said grievor pursuant to this agreement (the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged by the grievor), the association and the said grievor hereby remise, release and forever discharge the company, its officers, agents, employees, predecessors in interest, successors and assigns, of and from all actions and all manner of actions, cause and causes of action, suits, debts, dues, sums of money, grievances, claims"—they cover the whole area—"their heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, or any of them have had, now have or may in future have, by reason of any matter, cause or things whatsoever existing up to the present time in any way arising out of or in connection with the employment of the grievor by the company and in particular, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, from the claims advanced in the grievance and arbitration proceedings aforesaid."

What the agreement really says is that if there are any further health problems related to the working environment in that company, the company is not going to be liable, nor are any of its supervisors or superintendents or any of the supervisory staff going to be held responsible.

This gentleman went through serious surgery just recently. He has worked 17 years for that company, and he has no recourse, I guess. I do not know, but I hope there may be a door open for an appeal to the Workers' Compensation Board.

It would be difficult to find out to what degree he was exposed to hazardous material. I have indicated that I am not very happy with the past monitoring by the Ministry of Labour or by the Ministry of Health at the time, which was responsible for the employees and industries working with hazardous materials.

I was interested in an article in the Financial Post of May 24, 1984. It is similar to the document I read previously. The title is, "Dow Chemical May Face Health Claims Here." It says: "The Dow Chemical Co., on the defensive in a US court over the safety of its 2,4-D and

2,4,5-T phenoxy herbicides, may soon find itself confronting a claim that the products left a legacy of intractable health problems for workers who used them in New Brunswick more than a quarter century ago." They used them to spray the forests of New Brunswick 25 years ago.

4:40 p.m.

It goes on to tell of the difficulties with health problems a number of employees now face and of those who died at a young age. It goes to show, if we go back 25 years and look at the work environment, the hazardous materials employees used then. I suggest employees should have the right to know what hazardous materials they used in the past. In this case, the grievor I mentioned worked with hazardous materials. Cyanide and acetone are two known toxic chemicals that can cause serious health problems.

There is nothing in the bill that outlines section 4. I would like to have some clarification from the minister responsible for this as to what we are going to include in section 4. It may be by regulations, I do not know, but I think the House should be aware of the intent of section 4.

I am also concerned about the right to know in the area of asbestos. My colleague the member for Sudbury East (Mr. Martel) has talked about the problems of asbestos and the other uses of toxic materials in the work place. I was a little bit shocked when he was talking about the advertisement on television that said, "If he only knew." I do not think he meant to say what he did and I hope he corrects it.

He said, "'If he only knew.' If that dumb, stupid slob of a workman had only known." I do not think that should be left on the record. I think there should be an apology. I do not think any of the workers should be held at fault for contracting an industrial disease. I think it is the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour, the Workers' Compensation Board and the new Occupational Health and Safety Act. The ministry should be in there policing it.

I appeared before the WCB six or seven months ago about a problem of a person working on board a vessel on the Great Lakes. He came down with a respiratory problem in the bronchial tubes and also a nervous condition. I appealed it. I asked my colleague the former Minister of the Environment if he would take the samples the union had gathered from the vessel carrying grain. There were two components, the grain dust and the grain itself.

It was too bad the samples did not come from an American ship. Those persons working around the transport of grain some two years ago,

when Americans had a surplus of grain, sprayed it with almost every chemical they could to keep the grain in good storage condition and in good saleable use.

In the laboratory tests done by the Ministry of the Environment, two chemicals were found. Both of them were of a toxic nature and one would cause a nervous condition and a respiratory problem. The board turned the claim down, even with the evidence supplied to me by the Ministry of the Environment.

Neither the federal government nor the Ministry of Labour was involved. No other studies were done in this area, to my knowledge. If there had been a complete follow-up, which should be done by the Ministry of Labour since it is responsible for occupational health, if there had been a complete monitoring at all times, we would not have the problems we have now.

We would not need the clause that says, "A medical condition that in the opinion of the board requires a worker to be removed either temporarily or permanently from exposure to a substance because the condition may be a precursor to an industrial disease, or any of the diseases mentioned in schedule 3 or 4." We would not need this clause because we would have a watchdog.

It reminds me of another document, the fall 1984 issue of Standards Forum Update, published by the Canadian Standards Association. It relates to occupational health. Headlines say, "Health and Safety at Work: Better, but not Good Enough," "Canada Not Well Organized to Regulate Work Hazards," and, "No National Reporting System Exists in this Country." It is interesting to compare this to what goes on in occupational health and safety in the United States.

It says: "One factor at last stands out clearly: the rapidly rising costs of work injuries, as measured by compensation payments.

"Payments made by Canada's workers' compensation boards to cover lost wages, medical costs and pensions for those permanently disabled and the dependants of those killed soared from \$368 million in 1972 to more than \$1.9 billion in 1982." That is not a very good record, is it? "Administration adds about another \$300 million per year (\$273 million in 1981). Total benefits payments and administration costs this year are expected to be in the order of \$3 billion." That does not say much for our track record in occupational health.

It says: "While estimates of work injuries and illnesses are approximate, there are no available

estimates on the amount of money spent on prevention, nor the number of people involved.

"In the United States, business firms spent \$5 billion for employment health and safety in 1981, according to a national survey. Labour Canada, in a study last year, pointed to 'the difficulty, if not impossibility, of obtaining Canadian employers' accident prevention expenditures.' The US study suggests that, on a proportionate basis, business firms in Canada might spend in the order of half a billion dollars a year."

One may consider advising workers of their rights in the occupational health sector as a part of preventive measures. If \$500 million could be spent in Canada alone, it could be spent in monitoring the hazardous areas so that we get a better understanding of what impact that will have on the person employed in industry. In what areas can we assist the worker so that he does not come down with some type of occupational disease?

It says: "The Economic Council of Canada, in its 1981 study, found that because the data 'is fragmentary at best, it is not possible to assess the extent to which the problems of occupational injury and disease have been controlled in recent years.' Much better data is now compiled in the United States as a result of that country's 1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act which, for the first time, set out to provide uniform national standards for work place health and safety."

I hope our occupational health bill will provide measures to control lost time through industrial accidents or occupational diseases.

I am also concerned about the Report of the Royal Commission on Matters of Health and Safety Arising from the Use of Asbestos. That is the Dupré report. Little of that is mentioned in the act except that the government will set up a panel. It is subsection 86p(1) "There is hereby constituted a panel to be known as the Industrial Disease Standards Panel."

If one were to appear before the Workers' Compensation Board on asbestos, due to the poor monitoring that has taken place in the occupational hygiene area of industry, there is not much to go by. I relate this to two cases before the board now. It will be bringing down a decision.

4:50 p.m.

I had a letter from the expert at the Workers' Compensation Board, Dr. Charles Stewart in reply to my questions about the case and the conditions this person was employed in. He worked in a paint factory in Fort Erie for about 10 or 12 years. They were using asbestos as a filler in the paint. It could probably be called fireproof

painting; I do not know. In that period of time they had only one application to have the place monitored to find out the degree of potential hazards in the working conditions of that industry.

When the tests were taken in 1972, asbestos levels were well above the safety level permitted for working in the industry. The Workers' Compensation Board would not accept the one particular test that was made there, yet had monitoring been taking place every six months or every year, they would have found a continued high count of asbestos fibres in the air, well beyond the threshold level.

I have now appealed this case and do not know what success I will have. There are survivors of the deceased worker. When I raised the matter of this document with Dr. Stewart, he almost shot that down. He came back quoting from other studies done throughout Europe. Anybody making an appeal to the Workers' Compensation Board is going to get different expert opinions.

What I find missing from this bill is the old adage that the benefit of the doubt should be given. I find that interesting, and thought there would be something in the new act, in schedule 3 or schedule 4.

It goes on to say in this report, at chapter 12.9:

"In line with the legislative exposure draft in the white paper on the Workers' Compensation Act, the provisions of schedule 3 should be applicable to workers who have engaged in a scheduled industrial process at any time in their employment history.

"Our final consideration with respect to subsection 122(9) concerns the nature of the presumption it generates in favour of a claimant whose disease is covered by schedule 3." Many are not covered by that.

"The wording of subsection 122(9) triggers the presumption if the claimant has the disease named in the disease column of schedule 3 and was employed in the process designated in the process column of this schedule. The presumption does not extend to the accuracy of the claimant's disease diagnosis or to whether the claimant's employer engaged in the designated process, but applies once these two matters of fact have been ascertained.

"It generates in favour of the claimant a presumption, the burden of whose refutation must be borne by the employer." In other words, it is saying we are going to give the benefit of the doubt to the worker because of his work environment.

It goes on to say in chapter 13, Processing Asbestos-Related Claims:

"The board's benefit of doubt policy was described in chapter 12 and has been referred to at a number of points in the present chapter. In our judgement, a policy of this kind is eminently desirable and justifiable on three grounds. First, benefit of doubt provides a fair and practical way of addressing the medical uncertainty that enshrouds a substantial volume of industrial disease claims.

"Second, benefit of doubt combats what, in any agency endowed with broad administrative discretion, is the danger—particularly acute when guidelines or eligibility rules are in place—that adjudicators might approach claims which do not satisfy the terms of the rule with a negative mindset. Third, benefit of doubt is fully in line with the historic tradeoff whereby workers' compensation was provided in lieu of the common law right of employees to sue their employers for damages.

"In civil liability cases, the plaintiff must prove his case on the balance of probabilities. This means that if the evidence is evenly balanced as between the plaintiff and the defendant, the plaintiff will not succeed. Benefit of doubt is consistent with the thrust of holding workers' compensation claimants to standards that enhance their chances of recovery from the chances they would have if their common law rights had not been taken away."

As I look at this section, I find it does not define the intent of the bill. I am deeply concerned about this matter. We have mentioned Dr. Charles Stewart, the expert on respiratory diseases at the Workers' Compensation Board. He seems to ignore the fact that one of the experts on asbestos is Dr. Selikoff. The work he has done in this area is very knowledgeable and backed up with hard-core evidence, yet the WCB totally ignores his findings. But it can go offshore and pick out somebody who is most suitable for the side of the board.

I am deeply concerned about these two areas. The lack of monitoring of hazardous areas in the passage is going to lead to more problems in this area. I want to make sure those persons are going to be considered in this act under any previous workers' compensation claims. I want to know specifically what is meant in schedule 4. Are we going to include emphysema, chronic bronchitis and other respiratory problems? Even cardiovascular problems are related to the occupational area these persons are working in.

I can think of another case where there was a lack of monitoring in a particular area and I appealed to the Workers' Compensation Board on behalf of a claimant. It was a matter of carbon monoxide poisoning. The conditions present in this operation of a blast furnace were such that members of the fire department were called in many times to remove a worker who had become ill or had passed out because of carbon monoxide.

In one case, a worker had passed out and was admitted to the Port Colborne hospital. I think if proper medical attention had been given at that time, if they had taken a blood test to find out what portion of carbon monoxide was in the blood system, perhaps the claim would have been allowed. But this person ended up with brain damage and died at a very young age. If there had been proper research, the survivors at least should have been provided with workers' compensation.

That brings up another point: preventive measures. I would like to see an upgrading in the education required to become a medical doctor. There should be more emphasis placed on workers' environment, which involves occupational health diseases.

The worker has a right to know what the conditions are and what hazardous material he may be confronted with. The medical profession in a community should be aware of what materials are used in the industries there. Then when a workman comes in not feeling too well and wanting to be treated, the doctor's diagnosis could pinpoint right there that it is related to an industrial event.

There is nothing in the bill that says we are going to see this type of preventive program. We can set up the board to look at areas of industrial disease but I believe we must include the medical profession in this. They should have more knowledge of what is going on in local industries in the area.

These are my main concerns. I would hope there would be something in the bill to say the employee has the right to know about his work environment. He should know what chemicals he is working with and what health effects those may have on him five or 10 years down the road. There has to be something in here to indicate to the employee that he has that right. I would like to see the benefit of the doubt included in the bill in more detail.

5 p.m.

These are my main concerns about the legislation, but I want the minister again to give

me in detail what he means in subclause 1(5)(n)(iv) about any of the diseases mentioned in schedule 3 or 4. I do not see schedule 4 in the act; at least it is not in the act I have. Schedule 3 is there.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, this might be an appropriate time for me, at the request of the member for Sudbury East, to respond to his comments. I appreciate he is not in the House at present; yet my response to him will cover some of the points the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) made and some of his concerns. It will also address in part some of the points raised by the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella).

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, on a point of personal privilege: I am not trying to slow things down here. I have two or three points to make that deal with the same safety and health aspects. I am perfectly willing to make them after the minister has responded, if he wishes, but I just thought it might be useful if he could respond to them at the same time.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: At this point, my remarks would be about seven or eight minutes at the most. If the member wishes to go ahead, then I can cover it all when he has finished.

Mr. McClellan: There is no requirement for the minister to wind up. If it is more convenient for him to deal with the points while they are fresh, he should feel free.

The Deputy Chairman: As long as we are proceeding towards a successful conclusion.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am trying to be co-operative with the member for Hamilton East and I am bowing to his wishes.

Mr. Mackenzie: I think there is some use in putting this on the record.

My first concern is that I think the bill is not a good bill and does not meet enough of the problems we have been talking about for many years. I have some difficulty in the definitions we have for industrial diseases and toxic substances, whether or not we are going to be adequately able to handle them and whether or not we need some broader environmental work relationship with respect to industrial diseases as well.

I just want to use two examples that bother me a bit. I can recall the isocyanate situation at the Inglis plant in Stoney Creek. When we and the United Auto Workers first really started getting into it, we had four or five suspected cases that anybody would admit to. I am sure the minister has kept in touch with the situation. The information I have now—and I am not sure it is all confirmed as yet—is that we are up to something

like 16 or 17 cases with respect to sensitization to the isocyanates.

That is in the respiratory area, but it has been such a battle to establish the environmental work and product connection to the illness of the employees. While some people try to downplay this exposure and sensitization, it is a very real problem for those who are sensitized. I am meeting with two or three of them almost weekly in my constituency office. I am not sure we are adequately dealing with that concern.

The other concern is the whole question of what constitutes a hazard and what is causing some of the problems in the work place. At one time or another, Hamilton has been called the cancer capital of Canada.

There were studies done and published by Dr. Cecilioni back in 1969. Initially, as the minister will well know, there were those who tried to downplay Dr. Cecilioni's studies. When the fact that the cancer rate was five times higher in the north end of Hamilton and around the industrial establishment than any other part of the city was finally starting to be accepted, the only real defence I saw was a claim by some of those trying to downplay his studies that the figure was really not accurate, that it was more like three or three and a half times higher.

When one takes a look at some of the more recent studies, it would appear that Dr. Cecilioni's study was more accurate than those of his detractors.

What concerned me was an article that came out just in the last couple weeks in the Hamilton Spectator. It reported on a survey done by the Department of National Health and Welfare which found the region's mortality rates from stomach, lung and bladder cancer among men, and breast and bladder cancer among women, to be higher than expected. It found that in males in Hamilton-Wentworth stomach cancer was 30 per cent higher than expected and lung cancer more than 20 per cent higher. In females breast cancer was 11.5 per cent higher and bladder cancer almost 16 per cent above the average.

All of a sudden they are once again raising the question of what the real causes are. Some people said, "The death rate was not that much higher overall, just in certain areas, so really we should not be that concerned." This bothered me and at the time it obviously bothered Dr. Cecilioni, because the day after this story came out in the Hamilton Spectator he called me about 11 o'clock at night and wanted to talk to me about this.

He raised his studies, and all the information did was to confirm the figures he had come up with a long time ago. He wondered what games people were playing. He also pointed out that this is not an accurate picture at all because, while it shows this very high rate for the entire region, his contention—a contention I think has been backed up—is that the closer you get to the industrial establishments in the north end of Hamilton the higher the rate is. He mentioned some of the startling finds they made on Beach Road, on Clinton and on some streets where it was a virtual epidemic.

He also mentioned to me that some testing they had done on the soil found the soil was contaminated. Once again, it was more contaminated the closer one got to the industrial plants in the north end.

Nobody has clearly decided exactly what is the cause of the cancer in that area; so there has to be a lot of room to give the benefit of the doubt to workers when they end up with lung cancer, stomach cancer, bowel cancer or something like that. Dr. Cecilioni's feeling is that the fluorides, arsenic, lead and iron are undoubtedly, or in some combination, the main reasons for them. Significant to this discussion, one finds these compounds to be more concentrated even in soil or garden tests one does as one gets farther into the north end of the city.

The point I am making is that we have an abnormal rate in the city as it is, but an even higher rate as we get close to the industrial establishments, yet we have not clearly established just which of these elements, whether in combination or whatever, are responsible for the higher cancer rates among workers.

We can get into a lot of other problems too. I mentioned the isocyanates in the Inglis plant, but I am not at all sure that we have adequately dealt with the question of toxic substances. Given enough leeway, where we have not been able to establish with absolute certainty what is causing cancer rates in workers in some of these establishments, they should still end up with the benefit of the doubt, because anybody who has dealt with the board knows darn well, whatever the argument he gives give them, the benefit of the doubt is questionable at best. Even if I am not totally right, it is questionable.

I think the concerns that were raised by the member for Sudbury East and by some of the other members who raised questions—the member for Erie and the member for Dovercourt—are all valid. We have not really dealt adequately in this very first section of this bill with the

definitions of toxic substances and industrial diseases. We certainly have not done so in respect of prevention or finding some easier, broader interpretation for workers so that we do not wait 15 or 20 years, as we did with asbestos or some of the other toxic substances, before we finally decide this really is compensable and really is why the worker is disabled and no longer able to work, or why he has come down with cancer or why it has finally cost him his life and we are fighting to establish a pension for his widow. We really have not been definitive enough in that particular area.

5:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, as the honourable members know, this is phase 1 of a phased approach to the restructuring of the Workers' Compensation Act. If we had waited and held public hearings, committee sessions and so on on part II of the Weiler report, which deals with industrial diseases, we would have held up many worthwhile amendments and changes to the present act. It was decided to proceed in the manner we have, but to continue to study the second Weiler report and come forward with further amendments as we go along.

I want to speak in particular about the comments of the member for Sudbury East, which the rest of the speakers have all touched on in one way or another. During the last debate on Bill 101, the member for Sudbury East spoke at some length on the subject of industrial diseases. He raised a number of issues to which I would like the opportunity to respond today.

The principal theme of the member's remarks had to do with the considerable difficulties inherent in the determination of causality in industrial disease claims and with the necessity for the adoption of adequate preventive measures in the work place. His position appeared to be that the provisions of Bill 101 would not be of assistance in either respect, a position with which I happen to differ.

In saying that, I have no illusions regarding the difficulties the member so articulately described. I recognize that the identification of industrial diseases and the tracing of causal connections with environmental factors in the work place and with particular substances or production processes presents a tremendous challenge to those charged with the task of adjudicating disease claims at the Workers' Compensation Board.

It is precisely because of these complexities that the government is seeking to strengthen those aspects of the present system that relate most closely to the determination of such

questions. I am confident the roster of independent medical assessors and the creation for the first time of an industrial disease standards panel will be of considerable assistance in improving the overall quality of medical determinations in industrial disease cases.

They will permit the development of appropriate and up-to-date adjudication standards relating to medical questions, as well as ensuring that independent, expert judgement will be brought to bear on issues that—and here I agree with the member—are difficult ones on which to achieve any kind of consensus.

I believe there are very few persons who would seriously contest the need for improving our efforts in locating and identifying elements that appear to be causally associated with industrial disease and for developing standards to deal in the fairest manner possible with the compensation claims to which they give rise.

By way of illustration of the problems that can arise in identifying and adjudicating industrial disease claims, the member for Sudbury East made particular reference to cancer claims at Inco Ltd. sintering plant, at Canadian General Electric Co. Ltd., in the uranium mines at Elliot Lake and at Bendix Heavy Vehicle Systems Inc. In addition, he mentioned Wilco Canada Inc. in regard to lead poisoning.

In discussing these cases, the member suggested that the Workers' Compensation Board had somehow been remiss in dealing with these situations, leaving the clear impression that the board had failed to recognize the validity of many of the claims which had been made.

Following the debate, I asked the WCB to check into the particular situations that were raised. The board's records reveal a total of 275 claims in respect of the locations and diseases mentioned. This includes Inco sintering plants at two locations, Copper Cliff and Port Colborne. Of these 275 claims which span the whole period covered by the board's records, 213, or more than 77 per cent, were allowed by the board. A further four cases are pending.

In the circumstances, given the admitted difficulties involved in adjudicating this type of case, I do not believe it can be argued that the record indicates any general lack of acceptance by the board regarding the validity of the claims in question.

The member for Sudbury East and several of the other speakers in the debate also referred to the importance of preventive measures in reducing the potential incidence of industrial disease claims. I agree that this constitutes the key to

improving the long-term physical wellbeing of the province's work force, although it does not preclude the need for developing appropriate procedures to handle those cases which occur despite our best efforts at prevention.

Contrary to the member's assertion, I have never suggested that I believe an appropriate definition of industrial disease or establishment of a medical panel are of themselves a sufficient response to the problem.

A recent editorial in the September 9 edition of the *Toronto Star* put the basic problem quite succinctly. It noted that about 1,000 new chemicals are introduced each year into work places across the world. In addition, it referred to the sometimes long latency periods of the diseases to which they may give rise. The editorial then posed the following question: "What can be done to protect workers' health without bringing industry to a grinding halt?"

The article noted the recent recommendations made by the Advisory Council on Occupational Health and Safety regarding the testing of these new chemicals and supported their implementation. In reply, I confirmed that the advisory council's recommendations were under active study within the ministry. I also described the current measures being taken to protect against potential hazards arising in this situation.

The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that the ministry be notified of new chemical or biological agents brought into commercial or industrial use. Established procedures require submission to the ministry of all known toxicological data, including data on the potential for causing cancer. The ministry may also require a report assessing potential hazards and including necessary protective measures to be prepared at the supplier's expense.

Onsite inspections by ministry staff are designed to ensure the adequacy of control measures. Section 14 of the act obliges employers to inform workers of work place hazards and to provide instruction and supervision to workers to protect their health and safety.

This very brief description of the measures taken under the act at present should suffice to indicate that control activities are not exclusively reliant on the designated substances list to which the member made reference. As he is well aware, the ministry's approach to prevention is not bounded by the relatively narrow confines of that list.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the minister is saying. I am aware he relies on the recommendations made by the advisory

committee. But the point is that we have gone far beyond that in this field. I think the general consensus throughout this section is that the problem is there, but I do not think the panel is going to catch up with the widespread concern over it.

The minister referred to the advisory council. Is he aware that last week there was a spill from Ontario Hydro at Pickering of 20 litres? An unknown product was emitted into the lake. We do not have standards in Ontario for this substance. Is he aware of that? This is the kind of leadership initiatives that are needed. In this case, we do not even have a standard.

I hope the minister read the article in the paper. I do not know the name of the product, but I will send him the trademark of this chemical. I never heard of it previously. The article said we do not have a standard in Ontario for the amount of this product, which can be emitted. I do not know what the side-effects of this chemical are.

5:20 p.m.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I want to go back to my previous comments. I would like to have some clarification on subclause 1(5)(n)(iv), where it says, "any of the diseases mentioned in schedule 3 or 4." What are we talking about in schedule 4? I cannot recall it being in the present Workers' Compensation Act. Is there another section the minister is talking about introducing that will classify other industrial diseases?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I will get that information to the honourable member.

The Deputy Chairman: Shall section 1 stand as part of the bill?

Mr. Haggerty: I have one other question relating to subsection 1(5) of the bill, amending clause 1(1)(o) of the act:

"'industry' includes an establishment, undertaking, trade, business or service and, where domestics are employed, includes a household."

Can the minister indicate the projections of additional revenue that will come in to the Workers' Compensation fund and what would be going out in benefits paid to injured domestic employees?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I do not have that information and I have no idea. I will try to obtain it, although I am not sure it is readily available and it will be projections only.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, maybe we can set aside the vote and we can go to—

The Deputy Chairman: We will vote and then once it is agreed we can decide, assuming I know how it is going to go.

Mr. Lupusella: In the meantime, we can deal with the other sections of the bill.

The Deputy Chairman: If the member for Dovercourt does not mind, we will vote on section 1 and then decide when we are going to have it.

Mr. Lupusella: Are we going to deal with the section and the subsection or the whole section?

The Deputy Chairman: Section 1.

Mr. Lupusella: Okay.

Section 1 agreed to.

Section 2 agreed to.

On section 3:

The Deputy Chairman: The minister has an amendment to section 3. Would he like to move it?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, I have a few remarks to make at the same time. You suggested, and I followed your counsel as I always do, that these things should be done at the appropriate time, rather than at the beginning of the debate.

The Deputy Chairman: As long as the minister is dealing particularly with his amendment.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Absolutely, sir.

The Deputy Chairman: Before we do that, let us just follow the book.

Shall subsection 3(1) and subsection 3(2) carry? Carried.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, you would not mind if I said a few complimentary words about the members of the committee in advance. I found the debate in the standing committee extremely useful in clarifying certain of the bill's concepts and potential difficulties.

As all honourable members are aware, the system is a very complex one and far-reaching changes such as those proposed require precise attention to detail. The hard work of committee members and the resulting helpful amendments have resulted in a bill I believe responds to most of the major concerns expressed.

At the end of the standing committee's deliberations, I undertook to review a number of outstanding issues. The first of them relates to the subsection that is now before us. As originally introduced, subsection 3(4) of Bill 101 provided that where a worker's serious and wilful misconduct results in injury, no benefit would be awarded unless the injury results in death or serious disability. The standing committee decided this section should be withdrawn on the basis that it appeared somewhat harsh.

The question has subsequently arisen, however, as to whether the repeal of this section may do more harm than good to affected workers, on the following reasoning: a basic premise of the act is that compensable accidents or injuries must arise out of and in the course of employment. Some employers have argued in the past that misconduct, if it is extreme enough, can be deemed to take the accident outside the scope of the employment relationship.

Subsection 3(4), as it originally stood, confirmed that even though serious and wilful misconduct occurs, any resulting injuries could still be considered to occur within the scope of employment.

I am therefore of the view the original wording of the bill, as contained in subsection 3(4), should be reinstated. The subsection as drafted may be used to counter the argument that some employees' misconduct is so grave that it cannot be construed as occurring in the context of an employment relationship.

The Deputy Chairman: Hon. Mr. Ramsay moves that section 3 of the act, as set out in section 3 of the bill, be amended by adding the following subsection: "Where an injury is attributable solely to the serious and wilful misconduct of the worker, no benefits or compensation are payable unless the injury results in death or serious disability."

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That would be subsection 7.

Mr. McClellan: My colleagues may understand this. The amendment the minister has moved to section 3 appears to be identical to the language of subsection 3(4) that reads, "Where an injury is attributable solely to the serious and wilful misconduct of the worker, no benefits or compensation are payable unless the injury results in death or serious disability." Am I missing something?

Mr. Lupusella: I recall the conversation in the debate.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the member for Dovercourt answering the question for the minister?

Mr. Lupusella: No. I do not have a copy of the amendment, unless it was delivered previously. However, because I was part of the committee dealing with this section, I remember the section very well. I can clarify our position as well if the minister will be kind enough to send us a copy of the amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: Does the member for Essex South wish to wait for a response from the minister?

Mr. Mancini: I guess the confusion now is that my friends do not have a copy of the amendment. Is that it?

Mr. McClellan: If I can clarify this, I am not trying to be difficult, but the minister proposed an amendment to section 3 of the bill. Is that correct?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That is correct.

Mr. McClellan: The amendment he proposed seems to be word for word the same as subsection 3(4). I do not understand what the minister is proposing.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: With respect, I believe the member is referring to an earlier printing. There was a later amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: What printing is the member dealing with?

Mr. McClellan: I have the printing that was in my book, which appears to be the wrong printing.

The Deputy Chairman: I am sure they have been duly circulated.

Mr. McClellan: Could the table make sure we have the most recent printing of the bill, because I do not have that?

Mr. Mancini: I have received a small package composed of the minister's new amendments. I was in the committee at the time we discussed this matter. The minister's amendment reads, "Where an injury is attributable solely to the serious and wilful misconduct of the worker, no benefits or compensation are payable unless the injury results in death or serious disability." Is this the amendment we are talking about?

The Deputy Chairman: Yes. It is the one I read into the record.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Mancini: I have some difficulty with this amendment. I am not exactly sure how wilful misconduct would be proved, whether it would ultimately be proved at the board or whether a court action would have to be taken to prove there was wilful misconduct. I want to know from the minister why a worker should be punished because of someone else's misconduct. If there is, for the lack of a better word, some horseplay on the job site and if it is wilful, why should the worker who has been injured, whether or not this injury is severe, be penalized and forced to stay off work? He may not have been involved in what was going on. He may have been an innocent bystander.

Finally, I want to mention this to the minister. Did we not remove from Bill 101 the privileges

of suing executive officers of corporations for wilful negligence or for not taking all precautions to make things safe on the job site? If the government wants to have it for one, it will have to have it for both. At the same time, I am still concerned about the fact that people will be punished for events that may not have involved them at all.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, we had a lengthy discussion about the principle of section 3. I have two points to raise. The first is a clarification I would like to have from the minister. Then I would like to make a few comments about the principle of this amendment.

The minister is moving an amendment to section 3. I am concerned about what will happen to subsection 3(3) of the bill when this new subsection is incorporated in the bill. I would like clarification about that. Up to this moment, we have subsection 3(3), which talks about presumptions of accidents. I would not like to see this subsection disappear.

I would also like to mention the lengthy discussion that took place at the committee stage about this amendment to section 3. At the very beginning I was strongly convinced, and I am still convinced, it is a good section and it is an amendment that should stay in the bill. A point raised by other members is that the misconduct principle incorporated in that clause pinpoints the blame on the worker, and there is no other section within the bill that blames the employer. It is fair to say that the opposition to this section was not so much against the principle incorporated within it. If there is misconduct as a result of which the injured worker eventually dies, under the terms of Bill 101 the injury would not be compensable.

The other critique that should be enlarged is that the misconduct took place on the employer's premises. As we are all aware, there are foremen there and the employer is responsible for what is happening in the work place. I am strongly convinced that whenever misconduct results in death, the blame should be placed on the employer because he should be responsible for what is happening in the work place.

On the other hand, the misconduct principle without this particular section might let the Workers' Compensation Board not pay the dependent of an injured worker who died as a result of misconduct.

So I support the principle contained in the bill even though I understand the consequence that blame is placed on the injured worker as a result of misconduct that took place in the work place.

If the minister is dealing with that and with serious disability, I think the minister had an opportunity to review or rephrase this same clause without really getting into the principle of misconduct, which gives the impression that the blame should be placed on the worker.

There was ample opportunity. I am not sure if the minister really got into the task of eventually revamping this particular section without really giving the impression of blame in order to satisfy something that is extremely vital and under which injured workers should be covered because in our social life we eventually are all convinced that employers should be responsible for what is happening in the work place.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, I do not have a copy of the amendment, but I am looking at the previous act. I suppose Bill 101 is included in the previous act. Am I correct in that? It says, "Where an injury is attributable solely to the serious and wilful misconduct of the worker, no benefits or compensation are payable unless the injury results in death or serious disability." That leaves the door open. Just how serious are we looking at? A person could be off work for six or seven weeks and it may not be considered that serious.

The question that comes to mind is that sometimes there may be some horseplay at work and sometimes an innocent bystander may become injured. I hope he is not going to be penalized because two other persons may have been involved in some prank or something of that nature. I suggest the minister should be careful with this legislation so this person is not going to be left out of the picture. He may end up with a serious injury and because there may have been some other misfortune in the work place, it could leave him, his job and everything else in jeopardy.

As my colleague has mentioned, there are provisions under the bill now, even under the Occupational Health and Safety Act, saying that foremen and supervisors are exempt from any civil liability. We could have something that says one side can be exempt but in the case of the other side, because there was a problem in the work place and a person has been injured through some misfortune that is perhaps not related to the occupation itself, if the injured employee wanted to take action, he could take civil action against the other person involved.

There should be some clarification in this area, because if you are exempting one part of the work force, the supervisors or the foremen, so they are not held responsible for some areas of occupa-

tional injury, you could come back and say to the worker, "We are going to set the record straight and you are going to be penalized." I hope that is not the intent of this amendment.

5:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, first of all in response to the member for Dovercourt, subsection 3(3) of the act as set out in section 3 of the bill will remain. I think he was a little concerned about that. It remains in the act.

I want to emphasize the point I attempted to make that there is no ulterior motive in putting this back in. We took it out because we listened to the arguments that were made in committee. Those were good arguments, and the same arguments have been made here now. But as I have said before in this Legislature, if I had my life to live over again and I knew I was going to be a member of the Legislature, I would be a lawyer first so I could understand.

I have been assured by legal counsel and by persons within my ministry for whom I have the greatest of respect that I could actually be doing more harm than good by taking this out. I am putting it back in only on that basis, that leaving it out would do more harm than good to the affected workers. There is no other motive than that. In my original statement, I attempted to explain the reasons.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I realize the minister has confidence in his staff and the legal advice he gets from them. I refer him to the problems the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) is having at present. He told me and other people he has received advice from lawyers in the office of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) that he could put quotas on fish and so on. He could do all these things because he has received this excellent advice. When he went to court, however, the judges sitting in the courtrooms and in chambers told him he could not do any of these things.

While I respect the fact that the minister believes in the quality of his staff, I have to say the subsection the minister wants to insert in section 3 plainly and clearly says no benefits or compensation are payable. There is no doubt about what the words "no benefits" mean. No benefits means no benefits. "No benefits are payable unless the injury results in death or serious disability."

We all understand it is going to be extremely difficult to assess what is a serious disability. If I am injured through no fault of my own because of something that would fall under this section and I am off work for a week and I am able to go back,

and six months later I have recurring problems from the original injury and I am off work again, if this goes on for an extended period, is that considered a serious disability?

Am I going to have to lose my benefits and my wages, be injured and maybe lose my job, as my good friend the member for Erie says quite correctly? I may lose my job and have to appeal this whole thing to the WCB, go through all the appeal process and then I may be left out in the cold after I have done all that. This leaves the door wide open for abuses which, in my view, should not be suffered by injured workers.

We stated this case to the minister in committee. I respect the feelings he has towards his staff. I have pointed out to him that staff and lawyers representing different ministries are not entirely correct. As a matter of fact, some of the things we have seen prove that in many cases they are wrong.

I say to the minister as sincerely as I possibly can that the words "serious disability" will come back to haunt us. That subsection is going to punish some people unfairly through no fault of their own. We removed the wilful misconduct section as it affects management and it is only fair to have it removed as it affects workers.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, in response to the question the member raised, the board defines any injury as serious if it involves six weeks' lost time. I think the member said something about six months, but it is six weeks' lost time. That is the definition of a serious injury.

I have one final comment to make as confirmation of what I said on two occasions thus far. This amendment is needed so that a seriously or fatally injured worker will be assured of compensation. It does not have the opposite effect. It is so they will be assured of compensation.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, I have other colleagues who wish to take the floor so I will try to be brief.

The minister mentioned the case where, through no fault of his own, a worker becomes injured because of someone else's wilful misconduct. That in itself is going to be difficult to prove, working one's way through the compensation board. Our amendment refers to where a worker is injured through no fault of his own and loses five weeks from work. He loses five weeks' pay and gets no coverage whatsoever, even though it was no fault of his own.

I think the minister misunderstood my reference to six months. The amendment refers to

when one is off work for five weeks, having hurt his ankle, knee, shoulder or back—whatever. Six months later, because of the type of work he has to do—bending, lifting, twisting, etc.—the injury is further aggravated and he is off work again. That means the original injury was noncompensable and the later injury is too. As the member for Erie pointed out, one may end up losing his job because he may not be able to do the original job. One might have to ask for light work and that type of job in many cases is not available.

With this amendment, we are opening the door for people who through no fault of their own are injured, who may lose not only the time from work but also may lose their job. They may even, over a long period of time, become permanently disabled. They will have absolutely no coverage whatsoever from the WCB.

In committee, when we raised the issue of not attaching wilful misconduct to the management end of it, the minister seemed to understand the point we were trying to make. I repeat that if he wants to pay people who have been seriously injured or the dependants of workers who have been killed because of wilful misconduct, he can pay them anyway. He does not need this section. If he is interested in those people, he does not really need this section. This section is putting a lot of other people in jeopardy, and I just hope the fine legal experts on his staff will come to this conclusion.

The legal staff must remember that once this is passed it goes to the board. The board handles the procedures and makes the decisions about what is serious and wilful misconduct and serious disability. Again, as people disagree with those decisions they have to be appealed, and a long process starts when this is not really necessary. If a person becomes injured at the job, let us pay him for his injury and give him his benefits.

5:50 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I have a point of clarification only. The six weeks I referred to do not necessarily have to be consecutive. The member had referred to cases where the worker was off five weeks and later was laid low by the injury again. It does not have to mean termination after five weeks. He can add the periods together to make a total of six weeks.

Mr. Mancini: The minister is saying to the workers that they have to be untruthful.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: No.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, he is; that is what he is saying. He is saying that if they are injured

because of someone else's wilful misconduct and they lose three weeks' work because of that injury, they will not be paid and will lose all their benefits. However, if they manage to stay off the job for six weeks, then they will be paid.

What does the minister think the injured worker's response is going to be? Human nature is human nature. He will visit the family doctor and complain to the foreman that he has to be off work for six weeks. Why are we going through all this? Will the minister please explain to us why we are going through all these backdoor shenanigans in order to pay a person for an injury?

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, for the last time, I would like to make the position of this party clear in relation to this important aspect of wilful misconduct.

My colleague the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) enunciated his opposition to this clause for reasons clearly spelled out in the course of the debate. I am on record that I support the principle of this section, because the minister is trying to sell something the members should be concerned about, especially when we are dealing with death or serious disability, even though there is no clear definition of what serious disability is all about in the present act.

At the same time, the minister is trying to place the blame on the workers when there is a wilful misconduct case, that the injured worker must be paid in case the injury results in death or serious disability. The minister plays on the number of weeks—six consecutive weeks of disability, or six weeks that need not be consecutive—to give an indication of what serious disability is all about.

As far as I am concerned, there is no clear specification of what serious disability is all about in the the present act or the new act. I might be wrong, but based on my knowledge I do not think any section gives an indication of what serious disability is all about.

The only thing that is clear in this section is when the injury results in death. Then there is no doubt whatsoever. Then serious disability becomes unquestionable. I think that leaves the door open to the employer to fight compensable accidents just based on the principle of misconduct. That is what I do not like.

I am quite sympathetic to what the minister is trying to do in this section, to move us on humanitarian grounds so that when a wilful misconduct injury results in death or serious disability the injured worker must be paid.

On the other hand, he is opening the door for employers to appeal compensable accidents on the issue of wilful misconduct. Lately, we had an opportunity to appear before the appeal system and to find out what kind of cases the employers are now appealing in that process, and I am very concerned about it.

My final position on this section was to redraft the section. We have been removing liability from management level personnel of a company, officers of the company and so on, but I do not think we are giving the same balance in power to management and workers to be excluded from any sort of liability.

In the case of wilful misconduct, the onus is on the worker to show he was not playing around in the work place in a case where the board is faced with an injury that resulted in death or serious disability, which is based on the principle of generalities. I understand the goodwill of the minister. On the other hand, that opens for us a negative scenario for injured workers across Ontario. They may be extremely confused about the good intention of this subsection, in particular because employers might appeal case after case on the principle of wilful misconduct.

I want to make my position clear. Is the minister going to redraft this subsection to remove this penalizing process on the injured worker in the case of wilful misconduct? Will he come out with more specific phraseology that will not offend workers across Ontario and will also deal with the serious matter of injuries that result in death or serious disability in different terms? I think that will do a favour to workers across Ontario.

If not, I do not have any other option but to vote against the minister's amendment, even though there is one aspect of the subsection I fully endorse; that is, "the injury results in death or serious disability." There is no section of the act that spells out a clear definition of what a serious disability is.

The minister came out with the proposal of six weeks or eight weeks as part of the general policy process the board has. Unless I am completely wrong—and the minister can tell me if I am wrong—I would like the minister to read the section of the present act and the new act dealing with serious disabilities of injured workers and what a serious disability is all about.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Chairman, my comments may take longer than the two minutes we have left. Six o'clock has almost arrived. I want to speak but I do not think I can cover it in two minutes.

Mr. Chairman: We are in committee, so there is no problem with that. My understanding is that when we return at eight o'clock, we will be dealing with Bill 77.

The House recessed at 5:58 p.m.

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No. 111

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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, November 6, 1984
Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, November 6, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.
House in committee of the whole.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ACT

Consideration of Bill 77, An Act respecting the Protection and Well-being of Children and their Families.

Section 1 agreed to.

On section 2:

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, if you will just bear with me for a moment, I will make available to the minister and my Liberal colleague the copies of my two additional amendments.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsection 2(1) of the bill be amended by deleting "where appropriate" from the first line.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I have a comment, it is not that I am unprepared. I do not think I will be long with most of these amendments. I did want to move this one again.

This is a section of the bill that I think is very important. It states that services in the French language shall be made available by service providers where appropriate, and I emphasize, "where appropriate."

I want to remind members of the assembly that today in the standing committee on social development we were dealing with Bill 119, An Act to amend the Education Act. It states that every single French-speaking person in this province has the right to a French-language education. That is every single student, not "where appropriate," not "where numbers warrant." Bill 119 says, "every French-speaking person."

I think that is an amendment that has been applauded on all sides of the House by all parties and throughout the province as an historic step forward. We applaud and commend the government for taking it.

I think it is not more than a year ago that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) brought in similar legislation guaranteeing every single person in this province the right to judicial hearings in the French language.

I do not understand why child welfare services should not be available on exactly the same basis.

We are not talking about optional services; we are talking about mandated services—mandatory child protection services, mandatory services for the protection of children in this province.

I cannot understand why the phrase "where appropriate" is being inserted. I hope the drafters intended it to mean that every single French-speaking child or family in need of child welfare services will have, as a matter of right, French-language child welfare services. However, I do not believe that is the way the section is going to be interpreted. I do not think it reads that way. I think that is a qualifying clause which will excuse children's aid societies from any obligation to provide child welfare services.

It is certainly nowhere as clear and unequivocal as the language in Bill 119 which I read because it is so clear and precise. "Every French-speaking person...has the right to receive elementary school instruction in a French-language instructional unit..." There is no ambiguity there. Nobody can weasel out of that obligation; it is a statutory obligation, period.

What we have in section 2 is not a statutory obligation. It is a statement that they shall provide, with the qualification "where appropriate." I do not know what "where appropriate" means.

I am sure the minister is looking at me quizzically, but I can tell him that it will mean what service providers say it will mean. I do not know why it is there. If it is the minister's intention to guarantee as a statutory right that every francophone child and family will have the right to receive child welfare services in their own language, he should say so in the bill by accepting this amendment and deleting "where appropriate."

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I hate to start the evening on a down note. There are a number of amendments from my friends on the left that I support, but our party shall not support this amendment. We shall not support it for the reasons all three parties indicated in committee in February and when we wrote the report, after proper representations from l'Association canadienne-française de l'Ontario, that the "where appropriate" phraseology would ade-

quately cover the needs of francophone children in Ontario.

That was the suggestion that organization placed before the members of all three parties in committee. I remind my friend that the members of all three parties in their report to the Legislature, and this was adopted by the minister in this case, urged that the "where appropriate" phraseology be put in.

I am not certain of the original phraseology, the minister may remember, but this is the phraseology that was proposed to the minister and to the government, not by a unanimous vote, but in a sense as committees work by consensus of the committee.

Our party feels we will continue to be consistent on this matter and we will support subsection 2(1) as it is written in the bill.

8:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Quite frankly, I do not understand the confusion of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). This was very well discussed on October 15 in the standing committee on social development. I will point out by quoting myself on page 36 in the Instant Hansard:

"I think that 'where appropriate' is the broadest possible designation. It gets away from the numbers game of saying 'where numbers warrant' or 'where individual service is required.'

"You are not talking about the ability of the individual service provider. You are talking about the ability of the ministry itself, because if you have primarily an English-speaking service, then the ministry, in conjunction with a number of transfer agencies, is going to have to find the French-language service.

"If you are going to say and if you want to argue that all services at all times should be available in the French language to anyone who requests them, which is what deleting those words would really mean, then that is another matter."

The member for Bellwoods replied, "Absolutely." The intent of this motion is to make Ontario bilingual by virtue of a clause in an act. When I raised that in committee, Mr. McClellan nodded that yes, that was one of the reasons.

Therefore, we reject the motion for the second time, as the committee did on October 15.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment to subsection 2(1) will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Shall the vote be stacked until 10:15 p.m?

Vote stacked.

Section 3 agreed to.

On section 4:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsection 4(3) of the bill be amended by deleting "two years" in the fourth line and substituting therefor "six months."

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, the purpose of this amendment is relatively simple and straightforward. It is based on submissions that were made to the standing committee on social development, I believe principally by Dr. Barbara Landau. Dr. Landau is a psychologist and also a lawyer.

It was pointed out to the members of the committee that it is possible for there to be tremendous changes in the cognitive development of children and that two years is too long a time for an assessment of a child's capacity to make decisions to be allowed to stand. In other words, a child can develop cognitive or decision-making capacity in a period of time much shorter than six months.

Second, children can have varying levels of decision-making capacity. For example, a child could be perfectly capable of deciding where he or she wants to live. That may be an area of decision-making totally within a child's capacity, whereas other kinds of decisions put before the child may be beyond the child's reach.

For example, I think of the case of Justin Clark. Justin Clark was perfectly capable of making the decision about where he wanted to live. That capacity was disputed. I do not know; I am being hypothetical, but there may have been other areas of decision-making in which Justin may not have had the same kind of capacity as he did with respect to the question of where he wanted to live.

I think more leeway, more latitude ought to be given to the human potential of the child to grow, to develop and to change from a position of not being able to make decisions to in fact being able to make decisions and that two years is quite frankly too long. Six months makes more sense.

Again what we are talking about is whether or not an assessment that is two years old be allowed to prevail, notwithstanding whatever growth and development has taken place in the individual child. I am simply suggesting to the ministry that we give more leeway, more latitude to the developmental factor, to the potential of children to grow, to develop and to enrich their own

capacities to make decisions that affect their own choices.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, we were also made aware of the amendment, and our party will support it for the very reasons the member for Bellwoods has outlined. We believe that for the individuals we are talking about here two years is a very long time in these persons' development of capacity, and we hope the minister will agree. It is not a major matter, but we think six months may be more appropriate and we hope the minister will support the amendment.

Mr. Chairman: Are there any other comments? The question is an amendment by the member for Bellwoods.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, you asked for other comments. I presume you are asking them from this side, too.

First of all, just to clear up the record, the Justin Clark example, I think, was a very poor one in the light of this, because there was a competency test that had to be done in the first instance. I do not think you would have many like that case under this subsection.

I can be persuaded that two years is a long time but I think six months is too short. If I could have a change, could we agree on one year? I think two years, because of the fact that a child of 10 may have been assessed when he or she was eight, is a little bit long. But I think with six months we would be prone to have an awful lot of assessments, and I am not sure that an awful lot of assessments are necessarily good in a treatment or assessment milieu. If the member would—

Mr. Piché: One year is acceptable.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Thank you.

Mr. Breaugh: The member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) is on side.

Mr. Foulds: Sometimes it is behind that; you have to look.

Hon. Mr. Drea: I am being very friendly because, in the search for a new leader, you never know who it is going to be.

Mr. Piché: You mean you would accept a francophone as a leader?

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will accept you as—

Mr. Chairman: Member for Cochrane North, if you have any announcements, make them outside the chamber.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If the member would change the time frame in the amendment to one year, we will accept it.

Mr. McClellan: If I may, Mr. Chairman, I think that is a very reasonable suggestion and I would be happy to withdraw my amendment and move it again.

8:20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsection 4(3) of the bill be amended by deleting "two years" in the fourth line and substituting therefor "one year."

Motion agreed to.

Section 4, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 5 to 21, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 22:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that subsection 22(8) of the bill be amended by inserting after "may" in the second line the words "with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor in Council."

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, as the minister and members who sat on the committee know, we have had a very long debate over this matter, not over this section per se but over this whole matter of revocation and takeover powers. The minister knows it was a matter of very serious debate during clause-by-clause discussion. We proposed a number of amendments. A couple may be reflected in the final bill, but I am not certain. We certainly had some very lengthy discussions.

One of the crucial amendments we proposed was the setup of the panel in terms of the review. We have not proposed that amendment again because we acknowledged at the time, and we acknowledge now, that it was flawed. I still believe it was preferable to the proposal we have before us in the bill. The minister knows, and the House should know, there is a legitimate concern, not aimed at any particular minister of the crown but in general at government, that all actions be taken that are reasonably possible to protect the legitimate rights of societies and agencies.

We have sought to ensure that the societies and agencies that are concerned about these revocation and suspension powers—because they are very extreme, although they may be justifiable—are protected in as reasonable a way as possible all along the route.

Consequently, I am proposing this amendment to the House tonight. After the persons who hold the hearing report to the minister, the bill now suggests that the minister considers the report and then carries out the proposals in whatever way he wants. He may reject the report or accept it, but he carries out the proposals and lets the agency or society know what he is doing.

This amendment is fairly minor but we believe it is appropriate at that point, should the minister wish to carry out a proposal, it should be required that he go to the cabinet, to the Lieutenant Governor in Council, and obtain the necessary approvals. Very simply, that is what this amendment suggests. It is not an inappropriate change to the very sweeping and at times necessary, as we in this party will concede, revocation and suspension powers the minister must have.

I see the minister nodding. He knows full well this party has never suggested his ministry should be impotent to act where it is necessary. That is why we have put in what I would call one minor additional safeguard for agencies and societies. If they oppose strenuously an action of a minister, this provides a small additional safeguard for them. I commend it to the House for passage. It will make the societies and agencies caught by this section a little more secure in the feeling that all along the way and even at the end of the process there must be very wide acquiescence to actions the minister wishes to take.

Mr. McClellan: I have a question on this. Are we talking about approved agencies only, or are we talking about approved agencies and children's aid societies?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Both.

Mr. McClellan: Both? I have a bit of a problem with this because I think there is a difference between the status of approved agencies and the status of children's aid societies. I am not sure it should be necessary to obtain cabinet approval with respect to revocations under clause 22(1)(e).

Hon. Mr. Drea: This is a very minor, insignificant matter. In committee, the attempt to do this was in section 23, which captured only one of the groups, the agency, and not the children's aid societies. This is an attempt to have both—and I suspect particularly the society—dealt with by order in council.

The section is quite clear as it stands. After the minister considers the report he has his options. He may carry out, or he may not, and he "shall" give notice of his decision to the agency, with reasons. That is very straightforward. Why does the member want an order in council? The agency can then sit around and read the notice board here for two or three weeks to see if the order in council went through. I do not understand the great fascination with orders in council.

It was my understanding that people wanted decisions with proper and reasonable notice and reports that led to decisions being made in public,

with reasons given. The moment we go with an order in council it goes behind closed cabinet doors. It is not done publicly. No reasons need be given. All we have is a bulletin board where, on certain Fridays, the order in council is posted.

I do not think it adds anything to the section; indeed, it begins to slow down the process and in my view takes away the very protections we wanted to put in. These were that the proposal be dealt with openly, that reasons be given and decisions be made in the open where they can be discussed. As the member knows, an act of the cabinet, an order in council, cannot be discussed.

On that basis, we reject this amendment to section 22, just as we rejected the amendment to section 23 on October 16—and as the committee did, to the best of my knowledge.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. McClellan: I just wanted to make it clear, if I did not, what my problem is with it. I think it is appropriate that an order in council be the means to exercise the government's powers with respect to clause 22(1)(f); that is to say, the takeover of a children's aid society. I think this is a legitimate procedure. The problem with this amendment is that it also deals with revoking or suspending approval of approved agencies, and I fail to understand why it should be an order in council with respect to the revocation or suspension of a purchase of service from an approved agency.

I would suggest to the minister that it would be wise to maintain what I understand to be the present regime, if I am not mistaken, that before a minister intervenes to take over a children's aid society—that is, to remove any or all of the members of the board of directors and appoint others in their place—he requires an order in council.

Let me put that as a question to the minister. That is the way things are now under the 1978 Child Welfare Act. Is that not true?

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, the Child Welfare Act is not quite that specific. In the situation in Kenora, the Child Welfare Act was not used; the ministry act was used.

In order to clarify the takeover powers and to be able to give reasons, we deliberately went away from the order in council procedure. We wanted it done openly. I do not understand why there is such a demand to take it behind closed doors again, because once it goes to the cabinet for an order in council it is behind closed doors. Indeed, there is an oath of the executive council that the matter cannot be discussed outside the cabinet room.

Surely in the case of having to take over a mandated service for justified reasons, replace the board of directors and so forth, I would reasonably think everybody would want this done as openly as possible so the society could defend itself, make representations and state its case in public if it chose to do so. Why the demand to have it behind closed doors? I have always had difficulty understanding that.

Under the amendment we are discussing now, I would virtually have to get an order in council behind closed doors if for any reason I decided I was not going to purchase a service from an agency, which is going pretty far.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Wrye's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 22 agreed to.

Sections 23 to 27, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 28:

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment to section 28, the section that authorizes the provision of counselling services to children over 12 years of age.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 28 of the bill be amended by striking out "consent" in the third line and substituting "agreement" therefor.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, a number of people have been in touch with me since we completed the clause-by-clause discussion on this bill in the standing committee on social development in October, and they have called attention to the use of the word "consent" in section 28.

They have pointed out it would be much more helpful—let me put it that way—if "consent" were not in the bill because as soon as one uses the word "consent" one is obliged to get into the whole issue of informed consent and capacity as set out in section 4 of the bill.

People have convinced me it would be much more useful to avoid this issue entirely. In everyday language, somebody ought to be able to talk to a disturbed kid without having to get into the whole issue of consent, capacity and all the rigmarole that is involved in assessing consent and capacity under section 4 of the bill.

If one uses the word "agreement," one avoids this whole legalistic quagmire and kids 12 and older who are in need of counselling, who are in need of somebody to talk to, can obtain that

counselling without making a federal case out of it. People in the field are concerned this will pose a real barrier to disturbed kids having access to a counsellor, unless a whole other set of procedures is gone through first. People have convinced me that is not really necessary. We can solve the whole problem if we change the word "consent" to "agreement."

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, we will support the amendment. I think my friend the member for Bellwoods makes a good point. A number of agencies and individuals have been in contact with us. I do not view this as a major change and it may alleviate some problems.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, it is my view and my people's view that substituting "agreement" for "consent" does not do anything one way or the other. Some professionals feel that when they have to exercise their judgement when a child is not in a position to give consent they may be facing litigation. We think they fear a little too much. If they are using their professional judgement and have made a proper judgement, there is not that much difficulty.

Any type of counselling service requires consent just like other services. One of the purposes of this bill is to try to help older children in crisis to access these services. On that basis, we do not see any need to amend the present wording of section 28.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment to section 28 will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 28 agreed to.

8:40 p.m.

On section 29:

Mr. Chairman: I believe Mr. McClellan has an amendment to subsection 29(3). We heard earlier "two years"; it seems it is "six months."

Mr. McClellan: This is true. The question is where is it?

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps I could help the member. We have one at the table.

Mr. McClellan moves that subsection 29(3) of the bill be amended by deleting "two years" in the second line and substituting therefor "one year."

Mr. McClellan: This is exactly the same as the amendment we carried on subsection 4(3). It has to do with the same issue, whether an assessment of capacity should last for two years

or one year. I assume the ministry will be willing to accept it.

Motion agreed to.

Section 29, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 30 to 33, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 34:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsection 34(1) be amended by adding at the end thereof, "but includes a placement in an institution licensed or approved under the Nursing Homes Act or the Homes for Special Care Act."

Mr. McClellan: I want to point out that the copy of the amendment I gave to the chair, and perhaps to the minister, included the Education Act, but I am not moving anything other than an amendment to cover the Nursing Homes Act and the Homes for Special Care Act.

I would like to speak to this amendment. I regard it as very important. We are dealing in this section with the residential placement advisory committee, which I believe is one of the most progressive features of the child and family services bill. All of us have accepted the principle of the bill set out in section 1, that one purpose of the act is to recognize that the least restrictive or disruptive course of action that is available and is appropriate to help a child or a family in a particular case should be followed.

The bias of this legislation is intended to be anti-institutional. The bias of this piece of legislation is supposed to be against institutional incarceration, against residential care where anti-institutional alternatives can be found, made available and provided to the children and their families. That is a very important principle.

I see the residential placement advisory committee as the main means of implementing that principle. Its purpose is to screen each and every residential placement—I hope before the placement takes place, but that is the subject of another discussion—and to canvass all the options to see whether there is a noninstitutional alternative, a less disruptive alternative, a less restrictive alternative; and having canvassed all the options, to make that information available to the social agencies, to the family, to the child and to the Minister of Community and Social Services.

The problem I am trying to deal with is that we have left out a whole part of the service system. We have left out homes for special care and nursing homes. We have left out the hundreds of developmentally handicapped children who through no fault of their own have ended up in the wrong system. I have talked about this before

many times when services for the mentally retarded were transferred from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health in 1974 to the Ministry of Community and Social Services.

A whole lot of people—almost 3,000—were left behind. They were not left in schedule 1 and schedule 2 facilities, the Ontario hospital schools for the retarded, which were transferred to this ministry. Instead, they were left behind in nursing homes and homes for special care that remained under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Health. They were left behind because nobody could figure out, because of the mix of population in the homes for special care and nursing homes, how to transfer them over.

They were left behind and were forgotten for a long period of time. They were neglected; they were ignored. None of the services that were laid on from 1974 until 1980 in the Ministry of Community and Social Services was available to these people. The many programs for normal community living for the developmentally handicapped were not made available to those 3,000 people who were left behind in the homes for special care and nursing homes.

In 1980 the ministry brought in the triministry project to try to redress the fact that we had a first-class system and a second-class system for mentally retarded people in this province. If one won the luck of the draw, he or she ended up in a Community and Social Services facility. Perhaps one went to the Rygiel Home in Hamilton if he or she was really lucky. One got first class-service and was helped to achieve normal community living, even despite having a severe and profound handicap.

If one did not win the luck of the draw, he or she ended up in a hell-hole like the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Alliston or the Ark Eden Nursing Home in Barrie. We are all familiar with the story of the Ark Eden Nursing Home. This year about 40 kids were rescued from that home and given a new lease on life. They were put into various group homes through the combined efforts of the Ontario Association for the Mentally Retarded, the Ministry of Community of Social Services and the Ministry of Health. They were a part of that group of 3,000 people who were left behind.

To make a long story short, I am simply trying to propose an amendment that would ensure no other kids end up in homes for special care or nursing homes because their parents are not made aware of the alternatives that are available. I want to ensure that not a single other child is shuffled off into the back wards of these homes for special

care because a sober second thought has not been taken.

I have talked about the long-term solution many times as well. This would involve moving the homes for special care and nursing homes into the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Community and Social Services. It would involve rescuing each and every developmentally handicapped person in one of these totally inappropriate places and making sure they get first-class placement and support services.

Until that happens, we have an obligation and an opportunity, since the bill is in front of us now, to make the scrutiny of the residential placement advisory committee available to any proposed placement of a child in a home for special care or a nursing home. This is the least we can do. I do not believe there can be any excuse for not accepting this amendment.

I know the minister argued in committee that he did not think it advisable to intrude on the jurisdiction of another ministry. He argued that it would be better to amend the Homes for Special Care Act and the Nursing Homes Act so this kind of a screening mechanism would be in place to keep kids out of it.

8:50 p.m.

I do not disagree with that except that the Homes for Special Care Act is not before the Legislature and The Nursing Homes Act is not before this assembly. Neither of those statutes is going to be before this assembly in the foreseeable future. When the government brings them forward, we can move the screening mechanism from the jurisdiction of this legislation to the jurisdiction of whatever legislation the government chooses.

Our responsibility now, I believe, is to make sure the residential placement advisory committee protections are available to each and every child in this province faced with the threat of an improper residential placement. I do not accept for a moment the argument that it is not our jurisdiction, it is some other ministry's responsibility, it belongs in some other statute, somebody else should do it, let George do it. The jurisdictional entanglements are too complicated and one cannot possibly cut through them. We have been listening to those arguments since 1974.

In the meantime, I believe there are still about 2,500 developmentally handicapped citizens who are in homes for special care and nursing homes. I understand admissions of children are still taking place.

I simply want to say it is time those admissions were stopped. I think we have an opportunity to achieve that end by accepting a very simple amendment, which as I understand it is not objected to by the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton). He does not regard this as an unwarranted intrusion into his jurisdiction.

We are not talking about a body that has real, authoritarian power. We are talking about an advisory body, the function of which is to make informed options available to parents as children's service providers. It is intended that this advisory committee perform an informational service. I believe any family that is given a range of options and alternatives will act in the best interest of its children. I think it is unfair to deny families precisely that set of informed options.

I urge the minister to permit families to have the full range of opinion, information and options that are available for their kids and not to continue this kind of jurisdictional impasse that has been going on for a full decade. I think we have an opportunity tonight to put a halt to it.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I agree with my friend the member for Bellwoods that, among the amendments both parties have, this is one of the important ones.

I want to remind the Legislature, and I do not need to remind the minister because he has been very intimately involved in this legislation, which is now in its final stages, that this amendment should carry for the high principles that are set out in clause 1(a) and clause 1(c).

We say this act has "as a paramount objective, to promote the best interests, protection and wellbeing of children." Then we talk about "the least restrictive alternative" being appropriate.

The areas with which I am most pleased in this legislation are the sections that begin with section 34, the establishment of these residential placement advisory committees.

As the minister knows, there is another amendment coming forward that my party and I believe would really put the cap on a section that is a good step forward. There is no doubt it is a good step forward that is going to promote the wellbeing of all children in Ontario.

I say to the minister that my friend's amendment does address an anomaly. From section 34 onward, for a number of sections we have addressed the vast majority of children in Ontario and the methods by which professional people and other community people—those who have a special interest and a special knowledge—can provide for children and for their families what is

called the least restrictive alternative, an alternative that is best for the child, that is in the child's best interest.

Because we have in effect a jurisdictional difference with two other acts, we have somehow shuffled to one side in a very real way a small number of children who right now are or may be in institutions which are not captured by the definition of residential placement.

I think my friend put it well. It seems to me that at a point where the appropriate acts come up for amendment we could move out the sections we propose to amend tonight. However, my friend is correct. For example, the Nursing Homes Act and the Homes for Special Care Act are not up for debate tonight. They are not on the floor of the Legislature tonight. They will not be next week or next month or perhaps for another year or two.

Until that point, surely it is reasonable to make sure we capture every child in this province. It seems to me and to my party that to make the act the very best act we can, to protect every child we can, to promote the wellbeing of every child we can, we should do no less.

We will support the amendment and we urge the minister most sincerely to add to a bill which has got much better over time by adopting it, understanding as we do that at some point it is more appropriate in another act. That is surely an action this Legislature can take on another day.

Mr. Sweeney: Back in 1977 and 1978 the present Minister of Health was the Minister of Community and Social Services. The present minister will recall that was the first time we really took a crack at trying to pull all of these things together.

On behalf of my party, I was responsible for helping to move through the earlier major changes to the Child Welfare Act. At that time we thought we had gone quite a long way in pulling together a number of acts. I have forgotten how many acts we pulled together. I remember we were trying to pull together under one umbrella references to children's services that appeared in other ministries.

Quite frankly, I was relatively proud of the changes that were made back in 1977 and 1978. It was made very clear to us then that the job was not finished; there still needed to be another step. Here we are six years later, trying to complete the picture, trying to put the last stones into place.

It is precisely for that reason I stand now and speak to this particular section. The minister will notice that I have not risen up to this point, for two reasons. First, I see in this particular section and with reference to the amendment being

proposed an opportunity really to close it up. It highlights the fact that there are a group of children who are not being adequately protected, who are not being protected at least in the same way as others are. This is one reason I want to support it.

Second, as the minister probably knows, I am now the critic for the Ministry of Health under which comes the jurisdiction for nursing homes and homes for special care. I, too, get the impression the minister who is now Minister of Health, remembering the kinds of comments he made back in 1977-78 and the kinds of comments Judge George Thomson, who was then the deputy minister, made back in 1977-78, would not be opposed to this.

I also want to highlight the fact that we are talking about a review committee here, we are talking about an advisory committee. We are not talking about a committee that has a right to make a final decision, but rather one that ensures that all possible information is made available; and second, that does not end up institutionalizing young people when it may not be in their best interests or does not get them in the wrong place.

9 p.m.

We have no guarantees, even with this amendment, that we will be able to do what we want, but at least we have some sense that under this amendment we are going to have a better opportunity to make fewer errors.

One of the difficulties parents face when they have a child who needs attention of this nature is a sense of uncertainty, in some cases even a sense of guilt, because they are not sure they are doing the right thing, that maybe they should be looking after the child themselves.

There is a sense of wanting to do their best and of listening to the advice that is being given to them, because they often have reached the point where they do not know what to do themselves. All we are suggesting here is that they be given this one little bit of extra help, that this advisory committee, this review committee, be made available to them.

I fully appreciate the jurisdictional problem here, that we are talking about two ministries. I appreciate that fact, but it is my understanding that because we are talking about a review mechanism, an advisory mechanism; because we do not have any indication that the present Minister of Health would not actively co-operate; and because we clearly get the message from this minister that he wants absolutely the least restrictive care for these children, that we want to

do what is in their best interests and that we are really trying to pull together everything we possibly can, weighing all these things in the balance, it would seem to me, at least, and to my colleagues who have already spoken, that this would be in the best interests of children until we can find something better to do.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, as in committee, I am not going to accept this amendment. First of all, I do not see what contribution I can make by imposing a toothless advisory committee, a quasi-information service, under the guise of intruding upon the jurisdiction of another minister.

Second, in the years I have been here—and I have handled a lot of legislation on this side, probably more legislation than any other minister because of the portfolios I have held—I have never before heard a suggestion that legislation is inappropriate but that we should put it in until something better comes along. I have never heard it in committee; I have never heard it on second reading; I have never heard it on third reading; I have never heard it anywhere, and yet I have heard it twice tonight.

I commend the member for his honesty, but to ask me to do this when there is an admission that it is not appropriate—I do not care who favours it. If there is so much demand in other ministries and other jurisdictions for this type of legislation, then I humbly suggest they bring it in.

The real intent of this amendment is that under the terms of providing information I would be in a position to veto what a parent wants. While this Legislature may not agree with what a parent wants and this minister may not agree or might have done it differently if it were his child, the member is asking me to take away the right of a parent to decide how his child, developmentally handicapped though he or she may be, is placed.

Mr. McClellan: No, we are not.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That is what you are telling me. I have sympathy for what the member for Kitchener-Wilmot (Mr. Sweeney) says about the situation that parents often find themselves in. They consult a physician and the physician says this person can receive extended care in a nursing home.

The parents go out and place the child in a nursing home or in a home for special care—a particular part or all of a certain type of nursing home.

What the member is saying is, “The minister should not allow it.” The truth of the matter is the member does not want me to give advice; he wants me to give advice with a sanction. With

regard to some of the concerns I have about homes for special care and other placements that might make my role a lot easier, but it is not one I want.

If I am placing a child or agreeing to a placement, I am invariably paying the cost of that child's care. In the case of a home for special care and a nursing home, I am not paying anything, nor do I have any more control than any other citizen over what goes on in that place. If the nursing home or the home for special care is licensed or approved by the Ministry of Health, unless I can show there is something that places the child at risk or in danger, I have absolutely no say in basic care and provision for that child. Under the triministry project, I have some authority in regard to programs for the individual, but not for the individual's basic care.

The second thing I want to point out is that protection is not an issue here. If the member is saying that a child who goes into a nursing home is in need of protection and he wants to name the nursing home, then he should stand up and say it. Then we can together bring to the attention of the Minister of Health and all his regulatory authority that there is a question of a child being in need of protection.

What he may be talking about is a child who in his view may have more opportunity in one place than in another. That is far different from protection. Undoubtedly I will agree with the member, but by the same token the parent does have some rights even when he disagrees with the minister or with the opposition parties in this Legislature.

It is my concern that if a doctor—I hope we do not get into all the things said about doctors when this was discussed in committee—places a child in a nursing home, how can I as the Minister of Community and Social Services have an information-gathering committee sit in judgement on a physician's decision when it is not in my jurisdiction.

9:10 p.m.

I am not raising the jurisdictional line as an excuse, as a barrier to any involvement by this ministry or for the perpetuation of a system there have been some concerns about, some of which are valid. What I am saying is that this amendment would not enable me to do one single thing to come to grips with the very real problem of the homes-for-special-care system.

When a parent chooses not to place a frail, developmentally handicapped child into what are acknowledged to be the finest of care facilities—and each and every one of my schedule 1

facilities for the developmentally handicapped in this province and each and every one of my schedule 2 facilities for the developmentally handicapped that are operated by community boards are the finest anywhere in the world—then I fail to see what effective role any information service, which is all the residential placement advisory committee is in the final analysis, can play in the matter.

On that basis, I am not going to accept the amendment, although I want to say that having been slightly critical about some of the reasons put forward by the mover and the two supporters of the motion, I understand from where the amendment comes. I understand and applaud their very deep and valid concern in this matter.

The Deputy Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subclause 34(6)(a)(i) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor:

"(i) before the child is placed in the institution, unless in the ministry's opinion the child's placement in the institution is urgently required, in which case the review shall take place within the 21 days immediately following the placement."

Mr. McClellan: This is quite straightforward. The issue is whether the advisory committee should review a residential placement in an institution before the child is placed in the institution or after the child is placed in the institution. For the life of me, I cannot understand why the ministry would bother to set up the advisory committee in the first place if it were not given the responsibility to make preplacement reviews.

If the ministry is serious about the first part of the bill, where it says one purpose of the bill is to recognize the least restrictive or disruptive course of action, then the responsibility is on the ministry to make sure that has some means of implementation. It is too late to have an advisory review after the child is placed in the institution.

We have acknowledged there will be emergency situations when the child will be at risk if not placed in a secure facility quickly. That is incorporated in the amendment. I cannot understand why the ministry would not accept the principle that placement reviews ought to be done before the placement. Surely it is not an

outrageous proposition that placement reviews should be done before the placement. That may be the ministry's intention, but that is not what it says in the bill.

I would like to ask the minister if he is prepared at this point, upon reflection, to accept this amendment.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, as I am sure the minister knows, the committee, particularly in our hearings in February, struggled long and hard with these sections of the bill, and with this section in particular, because it is one of the key components of the legislation.

One of the matters that we heard time and again was a plea for a preplacement review wherever possible. The reasons we heard were varied, but I want to put before the House and the minister one of the aspects we heard that struck me as being very logical and important in finding what we keep calling the least restrictive alternative, which may, of course, be a different kind of placement or may be no placement at all.

The point that was put to us, certainly with some passion and, I believe, with some logic, was that before entering into these placements, before institutionalizing a child, the family may agonize and may have agonized for a period of weeks, months or even longer. Having agonized and having decided, with or without the full review that these advisory committees can engender, to place a child, the very act of placing that child may in a sense lift the burden off the parents.

The thought of at that point involving a residential placement advisory committee, which may come up with a less restrictive alternative that may include either no placement whatsoever or a less restrictive placement, may be greeted in a negative fashion by those parents who have struggled so long and hard in trying to wrestle with the decision that has led them to have their child institutionalized in the first place.

I think that is a very real problem. There is no doubt, and the amendment my friend has proposed speaks to this issue, that there may be an urgent need to place the child in an institution without this preplacement review. I hope that as the residential placement advisory committees come on stream and as the system begins to work effectively and smoothly, as we all hope it will, we could as a matter of legislated policy move to a preplacement review.

For those reasons our party will support the amendment, and we hope the minister will adopt it.

9:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, I have not changed my mind in two weeks. This matter was discussed in committee on October 17. Many of the points that have been made tonight were made on that occasion. Perhaps I should review this item and the reasons we are not going to accept this amendment.

First, as a ministry we searched out this matter very thoroughly. We should point out that the placement review is for all children who have a problem, whether it is children's mental health, the developmentally handicapped, learning disabilities and so forth. It is not just for the developmentally handicapped who tend to be the long-term placements. The others tend to be short-term placements, particularly in children's mental health.

One of the problems with this amendment is to discover or define what an emergency is. Is the child threatening or attempting to commit suicide? Is there reasonable thought that he or she is suicidal, dangerous to himself or herself, to others or to the community? In fact, what is an emergency?

Since the role of the parent has been raised here tonight, one of the difficulties is that the parent's view and the professional's view of what constitutes an emergency are quite often different and distinct.

For those children who require mental health services, we do not feel we should preclude the ability of a medical practitioner, whether it is a family practitioner, specialist or psychiatrist, in concert with the parents to place the child in an institution for normal and regular observation, to assess the child and find out what problems there are. Some professionals prefer to do a short-term placement because one of the problems, through no one's fault, may be the home environment and they want to see whether the person improves if he is removed from that environment.

Regarding the developmentally handicapped or the long-term placement, there are loads of protections in this act. The long-term reviews kick in after 90 days. The short-term placement and the placements in the children's mental health area usually last between five and 21 days and are mostly for assessment and observation, as I have pointed out. We think it would take away from the right of the practitioner or the family to seek treatment if there had to be a prescreening type of operation.

Indeed, in our long-term facilities we have virtually blocked off long-term admissions auto-

matically and are constantly reviewing any long-term placements.

We do not believe prescreening, which is what this is, is really needed in terms of long-term placements, because there is already in our view a very effective review procedure. Indeed, we do not think prescreening would be of much use except as a barrier to the short-term placement. On that basis, we are going to reject this amendment.

The Deputy Chairman: We have an amendment before us. All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Foulds: Let's vote on this one.

The Deputy Chairman: Moving right along—

Hon. Mr. Drea: We made an agreement to stack all votes.

The Deputy Chairman: Yes, we just agreed to do that.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, on everything, Mr. Chairman, there is an agreement.

The Deputy Chairman: I was not here when the agreement was made and I would like to keep things going.

Mr. McClellan: We have an agreement to stack all the votes to 10:15 p.m.

The Deputy Chairman: I appreciate the guidance.

Mr. McClellan: Before we proceed apace, I have a fallback position.

The Deputy Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subclause 34(6)(a)(i) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "as soon as possible and no later than 21 days after the child's placement in the institution."

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I will not belabour the point. We have had the discussion. This replaces the subclause that reads "within 90 days of the day on which the child is placed in the institution." As the act stands now, the advisory committee is required to review a residential placement in an institution which is a long-term placement intended to last more than 90 days, but it does not have to review it until a period of 90 days has elapsed.

That is appalling, because 90 days is a very long period for a child to be institutionalized and not have the benefit of the advisory committee's review. It would be much more helpful if there were an instruction that the review take place as

soon as possible. That means it could be pre-placement or post-placement, but at any rate it would take place quickly so that the damage from an unnecessary long-term institutional incarceration would be minimized.

I do not understand why 90 days is required. There are other sections where there is a shorter time frame. I would hope the minister would be open to the operative part of the amendment that says "as soon as possible." If 21 days is not realistic, perhaps there is something between 21 days and 90 days that the minister could suggest to us. I think 21 days is good and the minister thinks 90 days is okay. Perhaps we could do some horse-trading on the floor; perhaps not.

It would be genuinely helpful to have the phrase "as soon as possible" inserted into the statute as an instruction to everybody as a target we would try to achieve, including pre-placement, and to shorten the period of 90 days by as much as it is possible to shorten it. Perhaps the minister needs an opportunity to consider that. If he needs a little more time, we could stand the section down, or he could make me an offer.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I will give the minister another minute or two to consider it. I am tempted to start by saying that if he does not like 21, how about 30, could he buy 45 and would he agree to 60?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Can he not make up his mind?

Mr. McClellan: I like 21.

Mr. Wrye: I will make any of the above offers to the minister. The point my friend is making is that we on this side—I think we have been consistent throughout—would prefer the mandatory pre-placement other than in emergency situations, but we are saying to the minister, and he knows we are saying it quite genuinely, we are concerned that 90 days is a long period. I know it says "within 90 days," but that certainly allows the flexibility to go right to the end. I think the minister understands that.

9:30 p.m.

Perhaps horse-trading is not the right word, because there has been an attempt on all sides to reach a reasonable compromise, a reasonable middle ground. My friend and I are certainly not involved in the delivery of these services and we are willing to hear, in a sympathetic way, from the minister if he wishes a period somewhat longer than 21 days.

I hope he understands the reason for this motion is our very sincere feeling that 90 days is somewhat long. Perhaps this is not the place or

the time, but we are on clause-by-clause. If the minister would like to consider a shorter period than 90 days but a longer period than 21, I agree with my friend that we would certainly be willing to stand down this amendment. If the minister has some idea he would like to place before committee for some period between 21 and 90, he should feel free to go ahead. We would agree with, and be willing to support, any reasonable shortening of the period.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, I would like to point out that it is not "90 days," it is "within 90 days." In view of the fact that we are dealing with long-term placements, I do not think that is too long, but I can be persuaded. The important thing is a very clear statement as soon as possible. I think "within 21 days" is far too brief because we might not be able to get a proper review committee in place. That might be worse than the remedy the member is trying to bring about.

I would be prepared to accept wording that says "as soon as possible and within 45 days," rather than "no later than." I think "no later than 45 days" might create the situation the member talked about, that "within 90 days" took it right to the limit of 90 days. I think the words "as soon as possible" put on an onus and the words "within 45 days" give a reasonable time no matter what the difficulty is in a case of getting a proper review committee.

If that number is acceptable, and a change in wording is acceptable to the member for Bellwoods, perhaps he would like to withdraw this amendment and substitute another.

Mr. McClellan: I would be delighted, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subclause 34(6)(a)(i) of the bill be deleted and the following substituted therefor:

"as soon as possible and within 45 days of the day on which the child is placed in the institution."

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will accept that with the proviso that it will be subject to draftmanship. It sounds a bit rough in the last sentence. I think it should be, "after the child's placement in the institution" or whatever.

Mr. McClellan: I was using the language of the bill, which now reads, "within 90 days of the day on which the child is placed in the institution." That is the way it reads in the bill. What I suggested was, "as soon as possible and within 45 days of the day on which the child is placed in the institution."

Hon. Mr. Drea: I will accept that. I said it would be provided and subject to draftsmanship without affecting the principle. I think the introduction of the phrase "as soon as possible" tends to create a little bit of a grammatical problem. Just so there is no question about it, it is "as soon as possible and within 45 days after the date." Maybe "date" is a better word than "placement."

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps the member could supply the chair with a copy.

Mr. McClellan: That is very reasonable. It is reasonable in the extreme.

Mr. Chairman: Perhaps if the member has an opportunity, he can share with the chair a written note of the amendment and we can read it from the chair.

If you wish, we can stand it down. Is it agreed that we stand this down so there is a chance to draft it? So agreed.

Sections 35 to 46, inclusive, agreed to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What happened to section 34?

Mr. Wrye: We are standing section 34 down, subject to drafting.

Mr. Chairman: It is to give an opportunity for drafting.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Fine.

On section 47:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Wrye moves that section 47 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection (2)(a): "The reasonable terms and conditions relating to the child's supervision referred to in clauses (2)(b) and (c) may include a term restraining or prohibiting a person's access to or contact with the child."

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I note that my friend has a different amendment, which I think sets out to accomplish the same purpose.

The amendment we are proposing has been brought to our attention most particularly by the Metropolitan Chairman's Special Committee on Child Abuse. Though I acknowledge that clauses 47(2)(b) and (c) may be adequate, there is a concern that they are not. This seeks to clarify quite specifically the concern this special committee had that in cases of child abuse, particularly under clause 47(2)(b), where the child is back at home, there needs to be a definite statement that access and contact with the child may be denied to some persons.

That is all it seeks to do. It seeks to specify in a very real way what is suggested in clause 47(2)(b). While it is not major in its effects, I

think in this legislation it is sending out the right messages. I hope the ministry will support the amendment. It is a fairly minor amendment that follows from clauses 47(2)(b) and (c), but I think it would be a useful one.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I am quite happy to support my colleague's amendment to section 47. I had a proposal for amending the same section; his is perhaps clearer and less arcane. But I am advised by practitioners in the field that there is a concern about section 47, and that concern is whether or not the judges have a clear and unequivocal right to issue an order restricting the right of access to a child.

I am sure the minister agrees this is a matter of enormous importance when we are dealing with a child abuse case. It is essential that the court have a clear right to order no access to anybody who may have been involved in the abuse incident.

9:40 p.m.

We have been advised by a number of people that it is not perfectly clear. I do not know how to put this without being disrespectful to the judiciary, but I gather it is open to an interpretation by certain judges of the court that they would not have the power to issue no-access orders.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is not correct.

Mr. McClellan: Not correct? It is correct. The minister's legal people are advising him that judges do have the power. People who are involved in trying to obtain the orders from all the judges who practise in all the courts have expressed a real concern that some judges will hang their hats on the excuse.

We bring this to the minister as a concern which has been expressed by people who have to deal with this on a daily basis. The amendment is moved in that spirit, to make it clear to all the judges they do have the power to restrict access.

Hon. Mr. Drea: First, may I commend the lobbyists for the Metropolitan Toronto chairman's Special Committee on Child Abuse who made all of the telephone calls today. I think this is pretty fair for a professional lobbyist to have two amendments on different sections of the act by—

Mr. McClellan: That is their job.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Personally, I think it shows the accessibility of those with an interest.

First, in clause 47(2)(b) the court can impose terms and conditions upon the supervision order. That gives the court all the powers it needs; it gives the judge all he needs. Let us look at this a little realistically.

If there is a real problem in the home where a child has been a victim or a suspected victim of child abuse, then one is really asking the judge to cop out by suggesting that he or she can send the child home and all the protection that is necessary is a limiting of access to a person or other persons.

If there is real danger or the child is in need of protection from a particular environment, for which the member is so interested in having the access limited, then I suggest the child should not be sent home. In a minor matter, if indeed this is minor, the court does have the right to impose terms and conditions. Second, if it is a major and very significant matter, the court does have alternatives.

Under section 54, the court may make access orders with respect to any order made under any part of this bill. In essence, the matter is already covered. I do not think putting this in provides any additional protection for the child.

If the member thinks the judiciary is unaware of its powers, I would be glad to send the chief family court judge a copy of tonight's Hansard.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. Wrye's amendment to section 47 will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, do you want to go back to section 34 and finish that off?

Mr. Chairman: Sure.

On section 34:

Mr. Chairman: Members will recall we stood down subclause 34(6)(a)(i) by Mr. McClellan until we could have the wording.

Mr. McClellan moves that subclause 34(6)(a)(i) be amended to read, "as soon as possible, but in any event within 45 days of the day on which the child is placed in the institution."

Motion agreed to.

Sections 47 to 52, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 53:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that subsection 53(1) be amended by adding thereto the following paragraph:

"5. Where the court makes an order under this section, the court may also by order direct that

"(a) the child and/or

"(b) a parent, or

"(c) a person except a foster parent in whose charge the child has been or may be,

"undergo a specific treatment program."

Mr. McClellan: Again, this is a fairly straightforward amendment. It would empower the court to make an order for treatment once the court has found that a child is in need of protection. There is a mandate on the court that it direct a specific treatment program. It makes that power one of the courts options. I assume this is something that has been debated within the ministry and the ministry understands precisely what the issue is.

My own experience in the past, during the time when the court was making orders directing specific treatment programs, was that it was a useful thing for children in this province. Many a time the only thing that kept a child from bouncing around within the service system or falling between stools was the fact that the courts were issuing orders for children to undergo specific treatment programs.

Again, I happen to feel it is a useful thing to retain in child welfare legislation and I assume the minister will either support it or not.

Hon. Mr. Drea: First of all, this will fundamentally change the role of the court. It will put the court in a clinical position. It would be ordering treatment or be in a position to order treatment for all kinds of people, some of whom might not even be before it. Indeed, it is not the role of the court to order treatment for people.

I would point out to the member that with young offenders, a young person over 12 must consent to the treatment order and, as we pointed out not too long ago in tonight's debate, under the present law the court can order terms and conditions to attach to a supervision order.

9:50 p.m.

We do not think the amendment would really accomplish what it is intended to do. It puts the court in a brand-new position where it is practising medicine. As I pointed out, in the case of a young offender, consent is still required. Presumably, the main thrust of the subsection is the direction that the child undergo the specific treatment program. The necessity for consent would appear to nullify that.

Mr. Chairman: All those in favour of Mr. McClellan's amendment to subsection 53(5) will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Section 53 agreed to.

Sections 54 to 67, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 68:

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I would like to raise a concern about the amendment that we passed in committee with respect to youth and recreation workers. There have been a number of representations made since we passed the amendment to section 68, which exempted volunteers from the duty to report child abuse. Many agencies use volunteers to provide mandated services or to provide a kind of residential service, such as a summer camp.

In retrospect, I think it was a mistake to exempt volunteers from the obligation to report these cases and from the sanctions for failing to report. It was done because of the essential and integral role many volunteers play in the core services of many agencies, including many under the jurisdiction of this legislation. I suggest we take a sober second look at that.

In trying to balance things out, we have to come down on the side of the protection of children. The Boy Scouts and other agencies may argue that if there is an obligation with sanctions upon their volunteers, they may suffer some loss of volunteers. However, we have to balance that against our responsibility to make sure that the obligation affects everybody who has a major responsibility for contact in a professional or semi-professional way with kids. Unfortunately, because of the way our services are structured, that happens to include a lot of people who are serving in a voluntary capacity.

In weighing the balance of interests, I think we erred in committee. I think we ought to take another look at that and come down on the side of tough duty, tough obligation and tough sanctions. We cannot pretend, even in 1984, that we have begun to cope with the phenomenon of child abuse in our society. The duty to report with sanctions is one of the most important weapons in our approach.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry my friend raised this because this it forces us to come to grips with the sort of issues that with our imperfections we sometimes wish to avoid.

I agree with the member for Bellwoods. As a committee, we looked at the matter over a period of time, and I know the ministry did. We all know the concerns that were expressed to the committee and the ministry in the summer of 1984. I acknowledge the concerns were then and are now quite genuine.

In reducing a volunteer to the provisions without the sanctions of subsection 68(2), we have erred in the very real import of the legislation, which is captured in the principles. So that the minister understands very clearly, I

will say the erring is not aimed exclusively at the minister or the ministry. In a sense, this is my mea culpa of the evening, as it is my friend's.

We should rethink this. I am bothered and I suppose I was almost from the time we agreed to the new subsection 68(5). The concern was brought to my attention by a few phone calls. I acknowledge those who called; I regret I did not receive them before we did our act in committee.

I was rereading the Hansard of the committee deliberations and particularly the questions I asked the minister, given the strong statement of the ministry officials in July that the burden on a volunteer to report abuse where he has reasonable grounds to suspect that a child has suffered or may be suffering abuse, while it would be somewhat greater than that of any person out there because it would have sanctions, would be very different from the reasonable grounds for suspicion that might be expected of a physician or other health care professional as captured under clause 68(4)(a).

At that point the ministry said: "Yes, that is exactly the point. We would have various standards of reasonable grounds." That point was made to those who came in as witnesses in July. Our own sense of it then was that everyone went home satisfied, but the pressure has continued, and I acknowledge that it continued not just on the minister and the ministry, but on members from all sides of this Legislature.

10 p.m.

Ultimately, what we did was to respond to pressure rather than the import of the legislation. I agree with my friend in suggesting to the minister that perhaps, as we go by section 68, now might be the time to think again whether subsection 5 is appropriate.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Chairman, we went through this discussion once before. It seems to me the whole thrust of this act and the reason we spent those months working on it is the protection of children. It is not for the protection of other people, but for the protection of children. We have listened to many witnesses for many hours, with a great deal of thought. I know the minister has put in a great deal of thought. I am willing to stand four-square that we want to protect children.

We all agree we are dealing with perception in this matter. The minister says there is a perception among volunteers that they might be subject to some penalties. When we examine that and look at how a judge might look at a case brought before him, I submit there will probably never be a case brought before a judge, but if

there was, any reasonable judge would look at the circumstances. Children when seen by a volunteer are wearing clothes and if they have bruises on their bodies, he is not going to see those bruises. No reasonable person would expect a volunteer to know the child was abused.

If it was a swimming class and a child was in trunks and had massive bruises—and perhaps “massive” is too strong a word—that would arouse suspicion. If a volunteer did not do something about that, I think perhaps a judge would look unkindly at that situation.

The judge would also take into consideration the volunteer’s experience. Are we dealing with a 16- or 18-year-old child who is a volunteer or are we dealing with a person who has been doing volunteer work for a long time and has had a good deal of experience?

We might consider for a moment the child-care worker, the person who works for the children’s aid society or any other job to do with children, who was well trained and recognizes things we might not see. In that case a judge might take a more serious view, but I think we are largely talking about an academic situation as far as a person being charged is concerned.

I do not want to miss the perception we want to create among all people that we are serious about the matter of child abuse. This sin, this blight on our society, has been spoken of in every religious precept. The Bible and the Koran talk about what a terrible crime child abuse is. It is not something that has suddenly appeared upon the scene in the last few months or years. What has appeared is the realization that it goes on. I am willing to take my chances as a legislator and come down on the side of making it apparent to everyone that we are really serious about this.

I am not suggesting a remedy or a situation I have not experienced myself. Long before I came into this Legislature and knew anything about children’s aid societies or child welfare acts or things of that sort, I perceived a child who was in my Sunday school class who I thought was subject to abuse. I did not know what to do about it, but I did have sense enough to go to speak to my minister. The minister had a good deal of experience in these matters and told me what to do. In this case, it was not so much a matter of physical abuse as emotional abuse.

I always remember the advice he gave me. He said sometimes one simply has to stand there and be ready to help that person when he falls. One cannot prevent everything. He gave me the advice that this is a situation that not he, I or anyone else could prevent, but we should stand

by ready and willing to pick up the pieces if and when it happens. It did not happen in the particular case, but I want to point out I am not suggesting that other people be subject to a rule I have not applied to myself.

I do not think there is much more to be said on this. In summary, we certainly want to indicate to everyone that it is not acceptable either to abuse children or to stand aside knowingly and see children being abused without taking some proper steps. Of course, it would be only in extreme circumstances that one would take steps oneself, but there are steps that can be taken such as going to the minister, the police, a children’s aid worker, whatever.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, I must admit I am a bit confused by all this. First, we did not exempt any volunteers from a duty to report. Second, I really do not understand. We had a committee; a lot of letters were written to that committee and people have spoken to me. I bring in, or accept, an amendment—let us go the whole route.

Somebody else may have introduced the amendment, but in essence I drafted it and the committee accepted it. Now honourable members are sitting here in the House and telling me to remove the Boy Scout amendment. Is that what the members want? Is that what I understood? Why does one of the members not stand up and move an amendment? We will let the Boy Scouts know what is going on, because I am not going to drop it.

Mr. McClellan: The only way we can proceed is to vote against the subsection. I am not trying to hide anything.

Mr. Shymko: The NDP is against the Boy Scouts.

Mr. McClellan: Right on. Yes, I say to the member for High Park-Swansea, that is very distinguished. We are saying we intend to vote against subsection 68(5).

Mr. Chairman: The question is on an amendment by Mr. McClellan to section 68. Shall the amendment carry?

Mr. McClellan: No; what you have to do is call the vote on subsection 68(5).

Mr. Chairman: I thought it was subsection 68(9) and subsection 68(10).

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, Mr. Chairman, they want to vote against subsection 68(5).

Mr. Chairman: Shall subsections 68(1) to 68(4), inclusive, carry? Carried.

Mr. Chairman: Shall subsection 68(5) carry?

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Chairman: Shall subsections 68(6) to 68(8), inclusive, carry? Carried.

10:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, in view of the fact that we are not going to finish tonight, I would like to draw the attention of the House to two rather magnificent victories. One was in Nova Scotia, where Mr. Buchanan was elected bigger and better than ever. Obviously the Progressive Conservative Party in eastern Canada is stronger than ever. Second, there is a rather mammoth sweep going on in the United States by someone very close to the chairman. Mr. Reagan is winning very handsomely.

Mr. McClellan: I am glad the Conservatives are on record as favouring the second American revolution, the new Reaganite right wing. Is this Jerry Falwell rides again? Is that the new regime for Ontario too? I am shocked and appalled.

Mr. Foulds: There are some of us who want to clearly dissociate ourselves from those remarks of the minister.

Mr. Breaugh: It must be just an oversight on the part of the minister but I am sure he would want to note the tremendous victory, the tripling of representation, by the New Democrats in the Nova Scotia Legislature.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Let us hear from the Liberals.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Chairman, we do not have anything to report.

Mr. Breaugh: We also want to join in commiserating with the troop to our right here, who lost their party leader's seat in Nova Scotia tonight.

Mr. McClellan: I am just shocked and appalled. I am overcome with grief and desolation that the Liberal Party has been wiped out in yet another jurisdiction.

Mr. Breaugh: Can we have a moment's silence or is that premature?

Mr. Chairman: Order. Can we continue with this bill.

Mr. McClellan: Maybe we could try to complete this amendment before the vote.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan moves that section 68 be amended by adding thereto the following subsections:

"(9) Despite the provisions of any other act, a child protection worker investigating a report of physical harm, sexual molestation or sexual exploitation may examine and interview a child alleged to be sexually molested or exploited without the necessity of obtaining any consents or without the necessity of apprehending the child.

"(10) No action shall be instituted against any person who provides access to the child for the purpose of the examination or interview described in subsection (9) unless such person acts maliciously or without reasonable grounds for the belief that an investigation is occurring.

Mr. McClellan: It has been brought to our attention by the Metropolitan Chairman's Special Committee on Child Abuse that some school boards are requiring the consent of parents before a child protection investigation can take place. I am not sure why this is happening—whether there is some directive from the Ministry of Education or whether school boards have a concern about being liable for action if they do not obtain consent. I am sure the minister will agree this is not a particularly helpful state of affairs.

The amendments are designed to make it possible for a child abuse incident to be investigated in a school setting by a child protection worker without the prior necessity of a parental consent being obtained. That is to say, prior consent need not be obtained before any discussion can take place with the child. People who are working day-to-day in the field with this concern have expressed the view that the requirement of school boards that the parents be notified before the child can be talked to will in effect thwart the protection investigation.

I believe this is a reasonable amendment. Access to the child without parental consent or knowledge may be necessary in order to conduct a successful investigation, and I would ask the minister if he is prepared to accept that suggestion.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, the minister is not prepared to accept it. First of all, with regard to an interview of a child to whom there are reasonable grounds to believe that something has happened, you do not need consent. You do not need any parental involvement; it can be done. What the member is asking for is the right to conduct physical examinations on children without anybody's consent.

If there is the concern that the parent or somebody else in control may have perpetrated physical harm, sexual molestation or sexual

exploitation and is therefore not going to consent to any physical examination that will prove it, there is a procedure whereby the child can be apprehended and the medical examinations provided.

What the member is asking for, and what somebody phoned about, is that anybody in a school system can suddenly decide if he wants to that there will be a physical examination of a child without parental consent. This really is not a question of a board of education not wanting to respond to allegations of some wrongdoing. It violates some pretty firm principles.

Mr. Chairman: The amendment before us is that of the member for Bellwoods adding subsections 68(9) and (10).

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the nays have it.

Motion negatived.

Mr. Chairman: While we are here, may we deal with the sections through to section 130? Agreed?

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Chairman, I have some questions about sections 128, 129 and 130, so it would be a good time to rise and report.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Chairman, there is a technical amendment to section 71.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Chairman: We are dictated to by the clock. We have an agreement to vote at 10:15.

10:28 p.m.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to subsection 2(1), which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 14; nays 59.

Section 2 agreed to.

The committee divided on Mr. McClellan's amendment to subsection 34(1), which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 25; nays 48.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. McClellan, I think you wanted to withdraw your motion on subclause 34(6)(a)(i).

Mr. McClellan: The amendment to subclause 34(6)(a)(i), which was defeated, should be withdrawn.

Section 34, as amended, agreed to.

The committee divided on whether subsection 68(5) should stand as part of the bill, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes 48; nays 25.

Section 68 agreed to.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House adjourned at 10:33 p.m.

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Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Jones, T., Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Mississauga North PC)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
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Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

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